

Suburban Scene

by MARY ELLEN MEAD

'A Pause in the Day's ...'

Time was that between New Year's and spring, social calendars remained fairly uncluttered. Not so anymore—not with nine out of 10 women affiliating themselves with worthwhile or charitable causes which know no "season".

Benefits, currently the trend of the day, are chalked up almost faster than they can be recorded and presently comprise most major activity on the party circuit.

Locally, the Birmingham unit of Christ Child Society is renowned for the plush events it sponsors, but this week came a note from Jean (Mrs. Joseph G.) Juetz suggesting there are times when it's wise to pause and take stock.

Sub Scene thinks she's right, so we give you her letter.

An Organization Is Born

"Just for a minute, pretend that the year is 1886. You are sitting in a room in Washington, D. C. a few young women are doing embroidery work. More specifically, they are bringing the comfort of companionship to the girl in their midst.

"With a smile, she looks up and wonders, hopefully, if instead of doing their fancy work they could join in making a layette that they could offer to a needy mother.

"Mary Merrick was unable to go out to find such a mother; a broken back had sentenced her to a life in iron braces. But one of her friends heard of a woman who had been visited already by dire poverty, and so the little group sewed for her baby—and waited.

"The baby who was to wear those clothes made of love and inspiration was born on Christmas Day. And on that day, the idea of a 'Christ Child Society' was born.

"Now shift the scene to 1962. If you are following in Mary Merrick's footsteps, you are one of 12,000 members representing nineteen states of the Union and thirty-seven branches. All the work of the Society is aimed at aiding and instructing children in need. Members dedicate themselves to a personal service for all children regardless of race, creed or color. The local needs of every city are different of course, so the work of the society varies greatly across the country.

In the long chain of chapters that connect the Christ Child Society from coast to coast, one of the strongest and brightest links is the Detroit chapter. Hand in hand with the twelve-year-old Birmingham Unit—800 members strong—it looks with justified pride over a half century of growth and accomplishments.

Local Project

"When the need for a school for exceptional children was brought to the attention of the Christ Child Society, the members proceeded to make it a reality. The school is located on Lahser at 13 Mile Road in the Birmingham area. If you should drop in on a typical school day, you would find several Christ Child members helping a qualified teacher in the classroom. The office is staffed by another volunteer. Staying by are two members who take care for the children while they have lunch and play outdoors.

"There are fifteen educable retarded children enrolled in the school—fifteen very wonderful reasons why the Christ Child Society worked long and diligently to fill this need in the community.

"An open house at the school on Feb. 17 is aimed at giving all friends of Christ Child an opportunity to visit this latest accomplishment."

Add Nostalgia

It was past mid-March in 1926 that three young women met for luncheon one day. All musicians, during the course of the conversation, one of them expressed a fear that they would lose proficiency in their art unless they took steps to "keep up with their music." Newly married, none of them had funds for further music lessons at that time.

Before they separated that afternoon, however, they decided to meet regularly and play and sing for each other so they would "stay in practice."

Thus the three became founding members of what was later to be known as The Birmingham Musicals. Of the three, only one is still actively a member of the club. Mrs. Leslie Lamborn (deceased) and Mrs. Helen Shaw Stauch now live in California. Mrs. W. Whiting Raymond of Birmingham still carries the torch of that luncheon inspiration which has since become the club motto: "Use what talents you possess—the woods would be silent, if no birds sang but those that sang the best."

Founder Celebrates

Today, when Birmingham Musicals members and guests meet at Birmingham Community House at 1:30 p.m. for the regular February concert, few will realize that Mrs. Raymond, the gracious, white crowned chairman presiding over the tea and social hour immediately following the concert, is celebrating the thirty-seventh anniversary of the club she helped to found.

The program, entitled "The American Scene" is dedicated to the Parade of American Music of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Assisting Mrs. Raymond on the tea committee are Mrs. James R. Bradburn, Mrs. Draper Allen, Mrs. Latta W. Porter, Mrs. Constant L. Bouchard, Mrs. Elmore F. Wollering and Mrs. Henry C. McQueen.

Pouring at the tea tables will be Mrs. Charles J. Shain, Mrs. Elwin C. Greer, Mrs. Phillip R. Flanders and Mrs. John R. Phelps.

'Hasty Pudding' to Return

The Harvard Club of Eastern Michigan has announced the return of the renowned Harvard Hasty Pudding show, annual original musical, in Detroit Thursday, April 4.

The 46-member cast in the Pudding's one hundred fifty-fifth production will be making the group's first Detroit appearance since 1947.

The Hasty Pudding, which claims among its former members Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jack Lemmon, Alan Jay Lerner and "Car 54's" Fred Gwynne, presents a student-written musical at Harvard each year, then goes on tour during spring vacation.

Local Representation

General chairman for the Detroit showing is John C. Finegan, of 783 Abbey, Birmingham, who is president of the Harvard Club of Eastern Michigan.

All proceeds will go to the local club's scholarship fund to allow more Michigan boys to attend Harvard with scholarship help.

Several other Birmingham residents are serving on the committee in charge of the event.

Finance chairman is Frederick K. Plumb, of 1643 Washington; arrangements chairman is Jervis B. Mehan, of 551 Plymouth; housing chairman is Ralph C. Getzinger, of 5055 Blynn Mawr; dinner chairman is Malcolm G. Adam, of 1265 Villa.

Traffic Man To Speak at Senior Series

The Senior Lecture Series of the Detroit Country Day School, 22205 W. Thirteen Mile, Birmingham, will hear Desmond P. Baker of the staff of Detroit-Wayne County Port Commission on Friday.

Baker will speak on the "Nature and Implications for the Detroit Area" of the St. Lawrence Seaway. A question and answer period will follow.

Baker is a graduate of the College of Advanced Traffic. Also, he is active in the following organizations:

- World Trade Club of Detroit, the National Industrial Traffic League, the Traffic Committee of the International Association of Great Lakes Ports, the Traffic and Trade Promotion Committee of the Council of Lake Erie Ports, The Detroit Junior Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Chapter of the Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Fraternity, and the Great Lakes Ports Traffic Committee.

JOHN KRÖPF, account executive with the firm of Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smiley, Inc., delivered a talk, supplemented with sound pictures, to Detroit Country Day School's Senior Lecture Series, Feb. 8. His topic was "How to Invest and Why."

Junior Achievement Relates Progress Of Area Campaign

At the first progress report meeting of Junior Achievement's 1963 Fund-a-Campaign, campaign leaders disclosed that 859,369 or 58.9 per cent of the non-profit organization's goal has now been raised.

Junior Achievement's dollar goal of \$270,000 is the highest ever set by the economic education organization in southeastern Michigan which represents the nation's largest Junior Achievement operation.

Directing the efforts of the Birmingham Chapter of Junior Achievement is Charles F. Adams, executive vice president, MacManus, John & Adams, Inc., who reported a net total of \$1,890 to date.

The figure represents 30 per cent of the \$6,140 goal for this area.

Bridge, Theater To Keep Members On the Go

Members of the Village Women's Club will attend a 1 p.m. benefit luncheon and bridge party Wednesday, Feb. 20. Mrs. Robert R. Murray is chairman. Mrs. Duncan R. McGillivray in charge of reservations.

The club's theater party, "An Evening with Maurice Chevalier" will take place Thursday, Feb. 28, with dinner preceding the bus trip to the theater.

Three Localities Are Honored

Three Birmingham women, together with other members of the executive board and the officers of the Detroit Women's Council of the Navy League, were honored at a special luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club on Feb. 6th.

Mrs. John Lavrakas, immediate past president of the Council; Mrs. John Petrakis and Mrs. David Zimmer have all been elected to the executive board.

RECTAL

Grechen Ruhl of Baldwin Court, Birmingham, will perform as pianist in an after-dinner recital at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass., on Sunday. For her recital, Miss Ruhl will perform a Bach Prelude and Fugue in D Major; a Beethoven Sonata, also in D Major; and two compositions by Chopin—Nocturne and an Etude. Daughter of Mrs. H. Simms Ruhl, she was graduated from Birmingham High School and now is a senior at Wellesley where she is majoring in English.

INITIATED

Initiated into Beta Epsilon chapter of the Kappa Nu, a national honorary electrical engineering fraternity, is Vernon E. Nickel, Jr., of Middlebelt, Birmingham. Beta Epsilon chapter is located at the University of Michigan.

Oakland Family Service Reports on Aid to Aged

Family Service of Oakland County, in reporting on 1962 participation in the Family Service Association of America's Project on Aging, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, noted that applications for service to the aged have increased three times over any other year recorded.

Robert J. Janes, executive director, commented that this was a thrilling experience as well as a gratifying one to know that the assumption of the need for counseling service to aged individuals made by the agency as it entered the project was borne out.

Mrs. Helen Melennan of Birmingham, the agency caseworker on the project, is responsible for receiving all new applications. She indicated that an area of difficulty was where three generations are living in the same home. Almost half of the cases opened in 1962 were referred by either relatives or a friend. Health agencies and other private agencies have also been a source of a number of referrals.

The chief presenting problem has been a health one in which the agency caseworker has helped with the relative of the aged, or the aged person himself. Membership on the committee is Evelyn Wade, George Williams, Mrs. David Young and Mrs. Mary

The committee has deliberated on how the agency's interest can be more clearly depicted and used in the community. It has also heard reports from various other agencies such as the Visiting Nurse Association and the Bureau of Social Aid.

The latter reported at the last meeting that some elderly people with age-assistance recipients who can be discharged from mental hospitals and placed in living arrangements outside of the mental hospitals.

The committee is also considering an all-day workshop on the need for Oakland County residents and professional people. The chairman of this committee is Mrs. John McVay.



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