

Local Volunteers Earn a Salute

Editor's Note

Shelley (Mrs. Roderick H.) Spann, native San Franciscan, has lived in Birmingham just a year, but her impact as a volunteer worker in community, county and state affairs has been felt by innumerable groups. She has made it her business to know the area in which she lives, contributing time and energy to any project she touches.

She is chairman of the Speakers' Bureau for the League of Women Voters, handled Press Day for Lenore Romney and is on the publicity committee for Oakland County's CNG. In the latter capacity she met three local women who commanded her interest and respect. She feels Birmingham, too, should know their story. Here's Shelley's version:

It's Been a Long Haul

On April 1, Michigan voters will have the opportunity to go to the polls to vote on a proposed new constitution. Most voters will be completely unaware of the years of volunteer, non-partisan effort which have gone into making this vote possible. They will fail to realize that Michigan's League of Women Voters, often against the opposition of both political parties, has fought the good fight for a new constitution for fourteen years.

Birmingham is always proud of its women. But as we approach this moment in Michigan history, we pay particular attention to three women who have played important roles in bringing it about.

The present Michigan Constitution, written in 1908 and adopted in 1910, provides that the call for a constitutional convention shall appear on the ballot automatically every 16 years. In the intervening years it can be placed on the ballot by a majority vote of the state legislature.

Two Birmingham women, Mrs. Brooks Marshall and Mrs. Peter Loomis, became members of the League of Women Voters in 1942, following the defeat of the "call" for that year. The interest of the state League was aroused by the defeat and the agenda for the local Leagues in the ensuing years included apportionment and state constitutional revision.

In 1947, League studies brought forth a consensus that a complete re-examination of Michigan's constitution by a constitutional convention was imperative. In 1948, a "call" was placed on the ballot by the legislature and the League, alone in the fight, began its campaign for a "yes" vote.

Mrs. Loomis, wearing a high fashion dress of the year 1908, became Mrs. Michigan Constitution in a skit which was presented to service clubs, garden clubs, PTA's and church groups throughout the southeastern part of the state. To dramatize the sad state of the constitution, other League members pinned 66 patches to the dress, one-by-one, signifying the 66 amendments.

For months Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Loomis and League members throughout the state worked on the campaign, only to be defeated by a provision which required the majority of those who had voted in the previous gubernatorial election to approve the "call."

Undaunted They Stood!

Beaten but un-bowed, the Michigan League made the call for a constitutional convention State Item 1, or foremost on the agenda of state issues. Mrs. Marshall, as a member of the board of the Birmingham League, was chairman of the study on the local level. Her committee made a thorough survey of apportionment, taxation and other areas which comprised the major controversies in the constitution, determined to bring an informed electorate to the polls when the call again appeared on the ballot in 1958.

During the years which followed, Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Loomis served succeeding terms as president of the Birmingham League. Emphasis during the tenure of each woman was placed upon the study of the issues involved in a new "call."

In 1958, a new skit team was formed in which Mrs. Michigan Constitution was depicted as a dowdy gal in an out of date, out of style dress, to which were attached 66 pieces of costume jewelry, for the 66 amendments. Miss Federal Constitution, by contrast, was a real dish. Although older, she was sleek and chic in a black sheath with a twenty-two pearl necklace indicating the twenty-two amendments. The Birmingham League took this skit to every possible location and, again, worked for a yes vote.

In the 1958 election, 800,000 "yes" votes were polled against 600,000 "no" votes; but the "call" was again defeated because 900,000 persons who cast a ballot failed to vote on the convention issue.

The apathetic voters of 1958 got a big jolt in 1959, when the state suddenly couldn't pay its bills. The "cash crisis" focused new attention on the sad state of the constitution and the League of Women Voters was no longer a "voice crying in the wilderness."

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Michigan proposed an amendment which would change the former majority restriction to a simple majority of those voting on the issue, change the method of selecting delegates to provide distribution acceptable to both political parties and put a "call" on the ballot for 1961. The Jaycees asked for and got the co-sponsorship of the League of Women Voters and, once the petitions were drawn up and printed, the formidable task of obtaining 300,000 signatures was relegated almost totally to the League.

That petition drive, the dramatic intervention by the Citizens for Michigan and the results are now history, but the individual effort involved remains vivid in the memories of the Birmingham Leaguers. Mrs. John Rumsey, as chairman of the Con-Con committee spearheaded the drive for signatures. Charlotte Marshall and Kathryn Loomis, by now recognized leaders in the community, were among those accosting the local citizenry and forcing its attention to the issue at hand.

(See LOCAL VOLUNTEERS, 6-CC)

They Ski, They Swim and They Model!

The Snowdrifts are a group of hardy youngsters from Bloomington Village who make a weekly trek to Mt. Holly to learn the rudiments of skiing from the instructors on the staff of Gerry Monod.

The girls, all members of Girl Scout Troop 137, are working to earn their skiing badge and at this early date are putting ski equipment on the top of next year's Christmas list, if a birthday present is not first.

Those making the weekly pilgrimage on Thursday afternoons are Sally Adams, Margo Allman, Debbie Allen, Allison Batta, Suzette Clayton, Laurie Cooper-Smith, Candy Demarest and Susan Higley.

Others are Kathy McDonald, Gloria Musick, Martha Neff, Barbara Petosky, Mary Pierce, Doreen Reed, Rochelle Rosenthal, Shirley Rose, Ann Slocum, Lynne Sott, Sharon Sterling, Lynn Terry, Debbie Thal, Lisa Turinen, Marilyn Vanderhagen and Peggy Wilson.

Accompanying the girls are Mrs. James Neff, Mrs. Ivan Ladinson, Mrs. Stanley McDonald and Mrs. M. B. Terry.

Two older sisters, Jill Terry and Mickey Neff also pretend to be Girl Scouts for the day and

five younger brothers—who shall be named later—also becoming very capable skiers.

ON FRIDAY, Feb. 8, the swimming coach of Seaholm High School devoted an entire afternoon in his busy day to put the girls of Troop 137 through their paces so that they could earn their swimming badge.

At the conclusion of the tests

he gave them a talk on safety in and on the water and demonstrated the technique of artificial resuscitation.

Girls participating in this test were the same group who ski together, plus ten girls from the Quarton School troop who joined the swimming class and also passed requirements for their badge.

TROOP 137 is also working very hard on plans for a spring fashion show March 29 at the Community House sponsored by Kay Cooley-B. Siegel. On March 4, Mrs. Williams from the children's department at the Birmingham store, will meet with the girls to give them a talk on good grooming and pose and at this time will select her models. On Tuesday, March 26, the selected girls will go to the store to be fitted in their clothes. In the meantime, the rest of the troop will be busy with tickets, publicity, decorations and door prizes.

The show will be from eight to nine in the evening and a small donation will be charged to defray the costs of the prizes. They hope they will have a sizeable audience to reward them for their hard work and Kay Cooley-B. Siegel for its sponsorship.

Birmingham Women Have Finger in Pie

Many Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills members of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association are working to make the spring flower show of the Michigan Division a success.

The show, entitled "Heritage in Flower", will be held at Wright Kay's downtown Detroit store on May 1 and 2. Mrs. Frederick Stefanski of Birmingham is staging it, and Mrs. Fred Trickey, also of Birmingham, is the entry chairman. Having an international theme, the show will afford exhibitors an opportunity to interpret two of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association's chief interests, the Associated Country Women of the World and the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

AT A COMMITTEE meeting at the City Club recently, Mrs. Walter Patterson, general chairman, announced others working on the flower show include Mrs. George S. Dixon of the Birmingham Branch; Mrs. Wilson F. McClellan, Mrs. John C. Calhoun and Mrs. George Cutter, all of Birmingham.

Presidents' Night

Birmingham Junior Women's Club will entertain at Presidents' Night Tuesday evening, March 5, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Community House. The program "A Night at the Opera", will include singing excerpts from well-known operas.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Thursday, February 21, 1963

Most of us live "protected lives". Especially those of us who live in or near the comforts and conveniences of cities, towns, villages and suburbs. We are shielded from much of the environments of our early American forebears are not with us. . . we cut no wood to keep our houses warm . . . many of us depend upon the support of government for security.

BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN SECTION CC

Mrs. Harold Tanner On Party Circuit

By MARTY CAHN Special Writer

Mrs. Harold I. Tanner, 4855 Ardmore, Bloomfield Hills, entertained at a luncheon and bridal shower Feb. 16 at the Village Club in honor of Mrs. Gladys Glover, 1444 West Cranbrook Road, Bloomfield Village, who will become the bride of Claes Troedson of Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 27.

After the luncheon — opening of gifts.

It was an electric shower, and after the business of gathering all the pretty ribbons and wrappings was finished, it came as a surprise to find hidden among the spring flowers of the table centerpieces, all sorts of useful gadgets enough to well equip a bride's kitchen.

Thirty guests were present to honor the bride-to-be. Among them were Mrs. Raymond A. Cragin, Mrs. Carl Larson, Mrs. Laurence Herman, Mrs. William B. Gregory, Mrs. Glen S. Glass, Mrs. Robert Holbrook and Mrs. Henry Sandrock.

Mrs. Tanner entertained at another luncheon Wednesday at the Women's City Club, Detroit, to honor her mother, Mrs. Frederic C. East, 445 Jefferson Ave., who celebrated her eighty-second birthday Feb. 22.

MR. AND MRS. G. Ralph Angle, 31177 Churchill Drive, Birmingham, were highly entertained by week-end houseguests—their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jay R. Angle of Cleveland O., and five little Angles, Scott, Polly, Julie, Jay and the latest Angle, Alexander, born

Theater, Rummage Is on Agenda

A general meeting of the Birmingham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Delta Delta will be held at 1250 Park Road, Feb. 26, at the home of Mrs. E. Sedgewick Stagg, 516 Hendrie in Royal Oak. Dessert will be served.

Discussion will center around plans for a theater party for scholarship funds, and the spring rummage sale. Mrs. Harriet Eavesley, a Royal Oak member, will entertain with pictures and souvenirs of her recent trip to the Orient.

Beauty Consultant Talks to Group

"Personal Development" is the theme in February for the Business and Professional Women's Club of Birmingham, which met Tuesday at Greenfield's Restaurant for dinner and a business meeting.

Mrs. Evaline Carman of Royal Oak, who was chairman of the program, and Mrs. Myron Collins of Birmingham, who assisted her, engaged Helen Vandergriff, beauty consultant for the DU Barry Co., for that evening.

Pay-to-Play Theme of Month

Birmingham members of Collegiate Sorosis alumnae are deep in fund-raising efforts to finance an addition to the chapter house in Ann Arbor.

Among those hosting pay-to-play bridge parties this month are Mrs. Ari Begole, Mrs. Oliver Marcotte, Mrs. William Whitcroft, Mr. Robert von Maur, Mrs. George A. Jones and Mrs. Arthur Hill.

Others include Mrs. David Eastlick, Mrs. Morris C. Purdy, Mrs. Wayne Smith and Mrs. Roger Struck.

On June 12. He was christened on Sunday. This lively group could provide around-the-clock entertainment for almost any family. The senior Angles are looking forward to a few weeks vacation in Florida, visiting friends en route. One of their stops will be Fort Lauderdale, where they have reservations at the Sea Shore.

Nancy and Susan Judd, daughters of Mrs. J. J. Judd, 14500 Judd, Glenvarly Road, Bloomfield Village, equipped with all the necessary paraphernalia for a skiing holiday, left on Friday for the Otsego Ski Club to meet other classmates from the Bloomfield Country Day School for a weekend of fun on snow covered ski slopes.

FURNISHING AND decorating her new apartment on Normandy Isle, Miami, Fla., has kept Mrs. Stuart W. Frankfort busily commuting between her Birmingham home and the south since last August. However, the busy schedule has not lessened her entertaining at a series of bridge and luncheon parties.

Wednesday was the date of her most recent luncheon, which was given in a private dining room at Fox and Hounds. This date was chosen because the majority of the guests, as well as the hostess, will soon be departing for warmer climates.

Departure dates, destinations and vacation addresses were exchanged by the guests who included Mrs. Willard Michales, Mrs. Joseph L. Newman, Mrs. Harold W. Burrows, Mrs. Arthur C. O'Fls, Mrs. Paul O. Jackson, Mrs. Westley M. Cahn and Mrs. Raymond S. West.

Mu Phi Epsilon Hears Program

Mu Phi Epsilon held its February meeting at 8 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Walter Ruffer of Birmingham. Following election of officers, a musical program featured Mrs. George Nelson, pianist, and Mrs. C. E. Zeck and Audrey Seidmeier in vocal duets. Dessert and coffee were served by Mrs. A. W. Brown, Mrs. Lucian Keppel and Mrs. Carl Owens.

Daughter Born

Mr. and Mrs. Russell H. Fisher, Jr. (Kathryn A. Brumbaugh of Birmingham) of 4495 Burnley Drive, Birmingham, announce the birth of a daughter, Lauren Kathryn, on Feb. 6.

Bride-Elect

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick L. Gabrion of Detroit announced the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Ann, to Harlan A. Davis, son of Mrs. Dean Davis of Birmingham and the late Mr. Davis, A Sept. 28 wedding is planned.



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