

# Floral SALUTE

By JANE LEVINE STERN

## Mrs. Bessie Anathan

If, by some means or other, it were possible to indicate on this week's cover, the person or persons who brought such a scene into being, the name of Mrs. Bessie Anathan would stand out. She is the one person who may be most gratefully thanked for having brought Council's embryonic idea into fruition.

The scene on our cover this week depicts three older persons enjoying the relaxing and accommodating atmosphere of the Pittsburgh Section, National Council of Jew-



Mrs. Bessie Anathan  
... humanity and generosity ...

ish Women's Lounge for Older People. The Lounge, to open officially on June 28, fulfills a need that has long gapped upon the local community scene. In recent

years the allied sciences of medicine, psychology and sociology have paid tremendous heed to the needs and desires of most age groups from the cradle to the grave, with the very tragic exception of the older group which includes the 60 to 70 year-olds. As a result, these persons, nuisances to children, too old to work and frequently lacking in interests, drift about seeking anchor in friendships and activity. It is for this group that Council has provided its Lounge and equipped it completely for enjoyment with television, snack bar, games, and a professional aide.

Mrs. Anathan's interest in persons beyond middle years pre-dates her experience with Council here. Some years ago she was on the board of the Jefferson County Home for the Aged in Steubenville, Ohio and served also as a trustee of the hospital there. Subsequently, on a visit in New York, she called at both Hudson House and the Council Lounge, which is located at 110th St. The magnificent facilities for aged which she saw at both institutions inspired her further and slightly shamed her for the lack which she felt in our community.

Thus spurred to initiate such an institution here, she followed with numerous conferences with the head of the Federation of Social Agencies and numerous ministers, all of whom granted hearty encouragement to the project. The effect of Mrs. Anathan's very generous initial gift toward the project was a tremendous influence on the impetus which the idea gained until now, when the project is complete and ready to be offered to the community.

Mrs. Anathan's interests far transcend this single project, for she has served as chairman of the Service for Foreign Born Committee, which proffers a helping hand to adult immigrants; she is a vital worker for the Montefiore Hospital, of which she is a board member and for which institution she is engineering the redecoration of rooms; the popular Gift Shop at the Hospital is another child of her creation. Additionally, she is active on the Federation for Planned Parenthood, serving on its National Committee and is on the board of Heart House which operates a convalescent home for children afflicted with rheumatic heart disease.

The humanity and generosity of

Mrs. Anathan has been given to the city which may claim her as a native. Her father, Isaac W. Frank was a prominent citizen, noted for his philanthropic activities, while her grandfather, William Frank was founder and first president of the Rodef Shalom Temple, all of which makes Pittsburgh right proud to accept the offerings of one of its really first citizens, Mrs. Anathan. She is a graduate of P.C.W. where she majored in art,

and since then, far from letting her artistic talents lay dormant, she has even exhibited with the Associated Artists here. She has two married daughters and five grandchildren.

So from the elderly gentlemen and ladies who may presently find hours of pleasantry in the Council's Lounge, many thanks Mrs. Anathan and keep a seat warmed up—I'll be around in a couple of decades.

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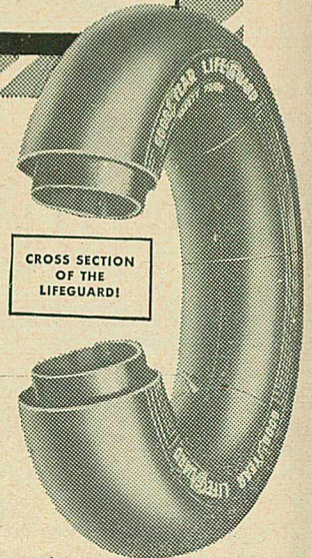
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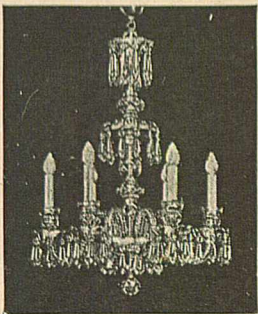
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