

## **Edith Stannard Eckert Birgfeld**

Edith Stannard was born on a farm near Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, on May 18, 1900. She was the second daughter of Lewis Judson and Bertha Rile Stannard. Her mother died in 1912, and later her father remarried. She attended the Plymouth Meeting Elementary School and the Ambler schools. She attended George School and graduated in 1918.

On March 10, 1921, she married Luther M. Eckert. To this happy marriage three sons were born, Thomas, Robert and Herbert. Unfortunately, after eleven years her husband died of tuberculosis.

For a year and a half she struggled to keep her family at home by selling baked goods and Spiralls foundation garments, but finally, she had to send her sons to the Milton Hershey School. For a time she was Spiralls city manager for the Lansdale area. In 1926, she became city manager for Harrisburg, and in 1939 she came to Washington in the same capacity. In 1943, she purchased a home in Takoma Park, Maryland. She remodeled the place into an apartment house which she operated.

On October 1, 1952, she married H.W. Birgfeld, the widower of one of her long time friends in the Business and Professional Women's Club.

From the time she came to the Washington area, Edith attended Friends Meeting of Washington and Irving Street Meeting. When the meeting which is now Adelphi Meeting was formed, she joined it. When the meeting had to move, Edith was the one who found the present site and did much to secure its purchase. When the need for larger quarters became evident, she led the effort to finance and construct the new meeting house at Adelphi.

Edith Birgfeld had a great fund of imagination and enthusiasm. Her energetic support of church suppers, United Society of Friends Women, Baltimore Yearly Meeting functions, and a genuine care and concern for individuals in need endeared her to the hearts of all who knew her.

Although in failing health the last years of her life, Edith continued to work diligently on behalf of Adelphi Meeting and other Friends activities.

Edith Birgfeld died November 23, 1967. Her courage and faith were always in evidence during her long illness. These qualities continue to influence the lives of those who remain.