

\* 1889 Nov 3

+ Feb. 10 - 1950

*Lessing*  
**Ernest Byfield**

Chicago's spectacular Pump Room is presided over by that amiable and gifted gentleman, Ernest Byfield. He says he began life as a Halloween afterthought, in early November of 1889. And it may be that the festival he so narrowly missed has somewhat conditioned his history.

At the Pump Room, which Mr. Byfield named for the historic 18th century English rendezvous, food makes its appearance triumphantly borne on flaming swords or perambulates in heated wagons or on mounds of ice shaped in gay sculptural forms. White-plumed blackamoors serve coffee. But if the Pump Room, which is virtually awash with the illustrious of the dramatic, musical and writing arts, is a major achievement in Mr. Byfield's career, it is not the only one.

After Cornell, he served as an officer

in the Air Corps during World War I. Subsequently he aided in the operation of his father's several Chicago hotels.

With Frank Bering he is responsible for the Bal Tabarin; for the first ice-skating shows in the country and for Ben Bernie's celebrity nights; for the Century Club and the Pabst Casino at the Century of Progress. And currently for the Panther Room with its cavalcade of swing bands which bring youthful throngs to the College Inn.

Mr. Byfield has been married twice; once to a golf champion and once to a famous beauty. He is now single.

