Columnist chats personally at microphone

By ETHEL SIMMONS

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Hollywood and Broadway columnist
Shirley Eder used the microphone at
Birmingham Town Hall the same way
one gal chais with another over the
telephone.

At the other end of the line was the
near-capacity audience, who heard
the talk one recent afternoon in the
Birmingham Theatre. Ms. Eder, as
soluthfield resident, has a personal approach that makes you think the gossoluthfield resident, has a personal approach that makes you think the gossoluthfield resident, has a personal approach that makes you think the goslives—her column is syndicated instwo-perfectly capacity and the style of
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Ms. Eder is sometimes gusty but
She Sperfectly candid and sturty sincere in her admirtation for the stars
that shim in Hollywood.

SHE'S GOT all the facts. The only-

while, 171 let in a few zingers.

"My husband said, 'The day you use that column as a personal weap.

I'm going fo ask you to give it up.

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I'm going fo ask you to give it up.

I'm going for a going

she's perfectly candid and utterly sincere in her admiration for the stars that shime in Hollywood.

SHE'S GOT all the facts. The only was her skyle has changed in the eicht years of doing the column is that it's noi entirely sweetness and light.

"You can't go on being Goody Two Shoes," she confided to her audience." Il kee everybody. Hel people have it but not unustly. Every once in a



Shirley Eder tells all at Town Hall.

appears Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, In addition to other Amer-ican cities, her column runs in To-

ronto.

Backstage before the Town Hall program, she said, "You can knock on doors forever and ever, but once a door is open after one person has guts, everybody gets on the band-

Daughter of a Supreme Court Jus-tice. Ms. Eder was starstruck as a child and although she met a lot of famous political figures, she was more impressed by actors and movie stars.

more impressed oy actors and motives stars.
She wanted to be an actress and got her first job in the last week of the last road company for the play "The Women." "I made \$25 and it cost me \$45 to join the union then. They gave me 10 lines, and the director took eight of them away for his girl-friend."

CELESTE HOLM, who had a lead in the company, showed young Shirley the ropes. The judge was not as thrilled by show business, saying. "When are you girls going to give up?" Bennett Cerfo once told Shirley she was a good taker and suggested she lecture. Her first booking was at De troit Town Hall where a representative for Dubleday heard her and asked her to put the stories in writing. For her book. One story she told on herself, to the Birmingham Town Hall audience, was how she graciously invited her house-

keeper to a speaking engagement and got the response, "I've heard you talk every day for 20 years. Do I have to

go?"
Shirley Eder is attractive, energetic and speaks with a firm delivery. She's something of a non-stop talker, but presumably does stop to listen to the stars' opinions, interviewing them on tape.
For her:rance at Town Hall she wore a grey-and-white-checked, tailored dress. Her approach to onstage make-up was as casual as her short, fluffy dark brown hairstyle

were a few names scrawled in large handwriting across sheets from a sternographer's pad. "One scrawl read." Mae West." and was a reminder to tell the audience about her bizarre interview with the star, who is now 83 year old. "She's literally a living legend." Ms. Eder

She launched into a description of "Mae West sashayed in, wearing "cream-colored face and penoir, justlike a caricature of herself." The interview ended with Ms. Eder flung on Mae West's bed, so she could admire the mirrored ceiling.

"WHO'S GOT some eyelash glue."

she hollered out from the dressing room, where several Town Hall women gathered outside the door before the program. She was digging into a canvas purse with a plastic handle that says "Shirley."

Her notes for the hour-long lecture like.



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