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Former Communist To Give Talks at Arcadia, Lewiston

LEWISTON, Minn. — Ex-Communist leader Helen Wood Birnie, who will speak at the First Presbyterian Church here Wednesday at 8 p.m., is a native of Winona County, living here in the 1920's at her Pickwick home before leaving to eventually become one of the party's functionary, organizers

She will speak today at 8 p.m. at St. Stanislaus. Catholic Church, ARCADIA, Wis.

Helen Birnie. known as Helen DeMark in the Communist party, was the youngest of three daughters at Pickwick, where her father, Wallace Wilson, was a buttermaker for a local creamery.

Parents Died

Polio left the girl partially crippled when she was 3, her mother died a year later and her father died when she was 12. Thereafter She lived with an uncle, Dr. Clarence Wilson, Dakota, who died when Helen was 15.

Following her departure from Dakota, she married several times during her tenure with the Communist party, where she was assigned to implement the party's underground movement in the Rocky Mountain States district.

She says she was converted to Christianity several years ago and began a

career as a witness for the U.S. government in hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee, telling all she knew of Communist infiltration into all phases of the U.S. economy.

Last year, while visiting an aunt, Mrs. Delia Wilson, she spoke at the Pickwick Baptist Church, where' she attended Sunday School when a child, as part of her crusade, to "repay my debt to my country." She also visited Mrs. William Griffin at Pickwick.

Autobiography Written

Her life story is portrayed in an autobiography, "The Broken Wall," published in 1954,. copyrighted by the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, Waterloo, Iowa, and dedicated to Cong. Harold Velde's House committee.

Title of her speech, at both Arcadia tonight and Lewiston Wednesday, will be "Red Infiltration in the U.S. Agricultural Economy."

Following her talk here, the Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian Church will serve refreshments in the basement.