

The Mysterious Death Of 'Black Molly'

by JOHN F. MCKINNEY

Circumstances beyond the control of Molly had forced upon her an odd, assorted companionship. Most prominent in this group, from the standpoint of size and demeanor, was a character by the name of Gouramis. Due to a tinge of blue in his appearance and a sullen air, this fellow went by the name of Blue. Next in line of group importance was Red. His real moniker was unknown to his immediate associates but, since his temper and appearance were both fiery, Red was tagged appropriately. This fellow had a tendency to crowd in on all situations to get more than his share of the takings.

Last members of the group were a couple, to all intents identical twins. Quiet and reserved, they generally took more than they gave.

SINCE STILL waters do run deep, there was always the impression that these two were up to no good. For the lack of a better name, these two were referred to generally as the Angels.

Molly, certainly no angel, better described as Black Molly, capable of holding her own, suddenly disappeared. Those in position to know were absolutely certain that her associates were responsible. The last job they pulled had caused much fighting in the division of spoils. Either she had been foully done in, or conditions had forced her to leave this jungle of avarice. Some time later the case of missing Molly was partially solved when she was discovered stiff and cold, back of a sofa, suffocated to death.

The case was referred to the proper authorities and their strange verdict was death by natural causes. They were powerless in taking action against her predatory associates. There were no signs of violence, no witnesses to the deed, just indications that all had met their end before her demise.

Perhaps the authorities should have lowered the lid before it happened. Since several of this gang were foreigners, perhaps they should have been destroyed.

Ironically enough, a strange parallel is found in the inhabitants of Shangri La who, upon leaving their native element, succumb to the change of elements or conditions.

There is no evidence of remorse. Blue Gouramis remains his overbearing self. Red goes about his usual activities. The Angels keep brooding. There is an air of collusion, or we'll never tell, or "she had it coming—so what."

So Molly lies in Potter's Field, unwept. Nought can be done to avenge her foul end.

Possibly she has gone in spirit to the tepid waters of a tropical paradise from which her ancestors were taken to grace the aquarium of some tropical fish enthusiast.

Manhood depends upon two basic factors for his progress: one is evolution and the other revolution. However, the one that is greater stability is evolution, because this pattern of development goes deeper in human nature than mere revolutions.

The Birmingham Eccentric

SECTION 3
Thursday, December 3, 1953

Birmingham Background • Local History in Story and Picture • Anniversary Issue Recalls Early Days For Former Resident

Mr. George R. Averill The Birmingham Eccentric Birmingham, Michigan Dear Mr. Averill:

There came into my hands recently a copy of the 75th Anniversary issue of The Eccentric. I will say that it was not only an excellent display of workmanship by yourself and staff, Mr. Averill, but a real masterpiece. Your modesty must accept this compliment.

I was so interested in it as I reside in Monroe county. I was born and raised on a farm within six miles of your fine city. Birmingham was the outlet of my father's farm produce which was directed to Ira Slade who at the time had storage bins at the Grand Trunk railroad.

FURTHER, IT WAS my pleasure after graduating from high school in 1934 to become a member of Birmingham's baseball club. I was on the pitching staff and came to your little village, then of about 800 people.

We played 10 games that season and was victorious in nine. Other members of the team were Maurice Blair, Ed Daniels, Howard King, Steve Stokes, McStay, Will Lett, Billy Rooks, Roberts and others.

Anyhow, the team was one for the Birmingham area and was proud of as they defeated such city clubs as Pontiac, Mt. Clemens and many Detroit teams.

A NUMBER of players on the village team later joined professional ranks. "Easy" King joined the Cincinnati Nationals; Howard King, Will Lett, John Lett, the State League; Fred Blanding the Cleveland Americans and Yours Truly the American Association.

Trowbridge Brothers, a mile northwest of your city on the west side of Woodward, had a stock farm and a horse race track. The stock farm was headed by a well bred stallion named Peeler.

The writer was fortunate one to have owned a son of Peeler that raced throughout Michigan and was known as German Boy, the marathon pacer.

HE WON an eight heat race at Port Huron against seven other contestants. It was in the days when a racer had to win three heats before he was declared the winner.

Some horse races in five races including Flint to Marion, Ohio and won in each place. This again placed Birmingham on the map as the home town of the marathon speedster.

When I read the 75th Anniversary issue of your paper, nostalgia certainly showed up in my mind and heart, having been away from my old home town since 1934. Congratulations again to yourself and staff and may The Birmingham Eccentric continue on for another 75 years of success for I know your constituents appreciate the well balanced home paper.

Sincerely yours,
HARRY S. GERMAN
Carleton, Mich.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Harry S. German, an old timer in Baseball who pitched for 53 consecutive years, was born on a farm near Franklin, the son of Henry German.

He attended Northville high school and first played on that school's baseball team. He was a fast runner in the field and could grab a ball with either hand and from almost any position.

During the time he was in high school, he learned to pitch, developing an outshoot curve, a fast drop ball, an inshoot and fast straight ball.

Later on in his career he developed a new throw, leaving it underhanded, upward, putting plenty of English on it. The batter would either strike under the ball with this pitch or pop it into the air.

IN 1900 German went to Carleton, Mich., and entered the banking business but kept up his baseball vocation by twirling on holidays and important events when he was able to get away. He played on town teams throughout Michigan and for the Toledo Mudhens of the American Association.

German retired from baseball in 1941. He figured that he had been in 1250 games, had made but 14 wild pitches and had been on the winning side in at least 75 to 80 per cent of all the games pitched.

Now 77 years of age, Mr. German is in the realty business in Carleton and bowls and gardens for his relaxation.

H. O. Watts Open Colonial House In Royal Oak

Approximately 400 invited guests were on hand the night of Nov. 23, to help Hector O. Watts and his wife, Hazel, celebrate the establishment of their new restaurant enterprise at a pre-opening "open house" in the Colonial Manor, 2244 N. Woodward, Royal Oak.

Well known in Birmingham, the Watts were proprietors of the Colonial Tea Room at 316 N. Woodward for the past five years.

PRIOR TO that, they managed the Tropical Club at Lake Worth, Fla., and from 1941 to 1945 owned a restaurant at 255 N. Woodward, in the building now occupied by Burr shoes.

Their move to Royal Oak is for purposes of expansion, according to Watts.

The new restaurant is located at 3 blocks north of Twelve Mile on Woodward and occupies

a large colonial type house. The building has a pillared front, convenient parking lot, and shrub-lined front drive.

Business hours will be from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily with the exception of Tuesday when the Watts will follow their former policy of remaining closed.

The restaurant will be open to the general public and special parties and dinners will be catered to, according to Watts.

Catholic Study Group Lists Speakers; Will Award Diplomas Dec. 14

Guest speaker at the Child Psychology program of parent education at Holy Name school Dec. 7 will be the Rev. John McCabe, associated with the Oakland County Catholic Family Center in Pontiac.

On Dec. 11, a meeting date change, the group will hear Dr. Charles P. Poletts of Oak Park, speaking on child behavior problems.

The series, under the auspices of the National Council of Catholic Women, is sponsored for the Holy Name parish by Marygrove college in Detroit. The final session will be held Dec. 14, when diplomas will be awarded.

The restaurant will be open to the general public and special parties and dinners will be catered to, according to Watts.

Fraud Suspect To Be Returned

An extradition hearing for Robert L. Bruening, 1917 Edinborough, Detroit, who is wanted here on a larceny by conversion complaint by a Birmingham woman, has been set for Dec. 4 in California.

Birmingham Police Detective Sgt. Merle Holmquist and George Taylor, chief assistant prosecutor for Oakland county, flew to Los Angeles Tuesday to attend the hearing, and to return the suspect to Michigan.

The complaint charges that Bruening, as owner of Old English Silver Platers company, picked up nine pieces of her silver to be repaired and returned only one.

Bruening presently is on probation on a conviction for assault in Detroit. He has been sought by Birmingham police since September, according to Holmquist.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "Put Sale—Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

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NOTICE

SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE CITY OF LATHRUP VILLAGE, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

to be held on Monday, December 7, 1953

at ANNIE LATHRUP SCHOOL
Southfield and 1 1/2 Mile Roads

for the purpose of

ADOPTING A CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF LATHRUP VILLAGE

also

ELECTING FIVE COUNCILMEN AND ONE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

The Polls of said election will be open at 7 o'clock A.M. and will remain open until 8 o'clock P.M. of said day of election.

Absentee Ballots available at the House in the Woods 19600 Forest Drive

WILLIAM H. HARVIE
Chairman, Charter Commission
Lathrup Village.

Red Cross Sends Christmas Boxes For Servicemen

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Edmund Leavenworth, production chairman, Oakland county's American Red Cross chapter has mailed 141 gift boxes to servicemen who will spend Christmas at sea.

Already sent to St. Louis Red Cross headquarters, the boxes will be re-routed to the various seaports for final distribution.

Among the several organizations donating 10 boxes of money was Piety Hill chapter, D.A.R. of Birmingham.

Boxes contained candy, playing cards, pocket size books and games, pens and pencils and other items useful to the serviceman, but often hard to obtain in farflung places.

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Top, left to right: FLIRTATION Spray Pin \$7.50, Necklace \$7.50, Earrings \$5.00, Bracelet \$10.00, Basket Pin \$5.00. Center left: CRISS CROSS Necklace \$7.50, Bracelet \$5.00, Earrings \$5.00. Contour Earrings (not pictured) \$3.00. Center, right: MADEMOISELLE Necklace \$7.50, Bracelet \$4.00, Earrings \$4.00. Bottom, left to right: RIVIERA* Earrings \$10.00, Pin \$15.00. LUCERNE Necklace \$20.00, Earrings \$7.50, Bracelet \$10.00, COMET Earrings \$5.00, Pin \$7.50

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In Army Male Chorus

Private Norman Strong, son of Dr. and Mrs. N. H. Strong, 531 Oakland, is a member of the 3rd Armored Division "Gleemen", a newly organized male chorus at Fort Knox, Ky. The group has appeared recently on radio and television as well as before servicemen audiences.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

LEON

Parisian Hairdresser

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MI 4-0700
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