

# Beverly Blonde Plotted Late's Death, Police Charge

See Story Column 4

## The Birmingham Eccentric

36 PAGES  
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN  
FEBRUARY 25, 1960  
Serving the Citizens of Michigan's Finest Suburban Residential Area



### Look Out Be-elowl!

... warns one of nation's unique fire departments. See Page 1-E.

### Franklin Justice Dispensed Quietly

... but vigorously. See Page 2-D.

### A Child's World

... is featured on The Eccentric's picture page 1-D.

### B'ham Women Meet Pat Nixon

... at tea table. See Page 1-C.

### Seahome Cagers Move into 2nd

... place spot in EML race. See Page 8-E.

### World to Pray

... in special Thanksgiving service. See Page 6-B.

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### This and That

by George R. Averill

### Treat Big Farmer As U.S. Does with Income Taxpayer

One of Uncle Sam's biggest domestic problems is how to collect the farm product. Too much of the taxpayers' dough is being paid to buy agricultural surpluses, and the cost of storing same. All manner of legal gadgets (mostly purely political) have been tried, with little success. So we, after sleeping and waking for years on the problem, now announce our solution: If an American can be made to pay a graduated portion of his income to Uncle Sam (and/or an income tax state), the higher the income the greater the tax—why can't Uncle Sam farm work price supports in reverse and pay less per bushel, or ton, for the products that must be from the individual farmer?

Thus, since the big surpluses come from the big corporation farms, pay them less according to the amount of the tax—why would tend to cause the biggest producers to produce less, or to just as the big income tax rates tend to cause many people to work less.

A butcher, as the day neared its end, had only one more thing to do. In walked a woman who said she was entertaining some friends and wanted a nice-sized hen for supper. The butcher reached into the ice barrel and brought forth his one remaining hen. He put it on the scale and said, "This one is \$1.83." "Well," said the customer, "I really had something larger in mind. The butcher thinking fast, went to the hen back into the barrel, stirred it around in the ice, and lifted it out. He weighed it and placed it on the scale and said, "Now this one is \$2.47." "What woman! I've never seen you before and you're acting so moment and then said, 'I know what I'll do. I guess I'll just take both of them.'"

### Where Is Decency In Top Politics?

How some of today's politicians do rant and rave... just as though this were an election year! (Come to think of it, it is, isn't it?) Illustration: Both Senators Kennedy and Humphrey say nasty, unkind things to each other, but when the Republicans, from President Eisenhower right down to Vice-President Nixon, are elected, they know very much about what's going on, knows that both Senators are engaged in trying to win votes. If, for another example, both candidates were women, and they were not running for a public office, yet said the same things about each other, the neighbors would think the Senators were acting something like to dirty gossip. And you probably would have very little respect for them, too.

### YET, WHEN playing the game of Big Politics, such men exemplify (See THIS & THAT, Page 2-A)

Millions of Americans believe that they enjoy untrammelled personal freedom... this really is not so. We have snatched from the freedoms that today's adults inherited from their grand parents. More than at any time since 1776 (except during the emergency of war) we are enslaved by endless governmental bureaucracies... not to overlook the "control" agencies which about organizations wield over their members.

82nd YEAR—NO. 51

### These 32 Bottles Indicate Total Pints of Blood Donated by Mrs. R. M. Brown (left), Mrs. Harold Chalk



### There Are 500 Bottles Waiting to Be Filled

Two women can't do it all alone, although each has given 16 pints in past Red Cross blood banks. Yet Mrs. Richard M. Brown, 648 N. Cranbrook, and Mrs. Harold Chalk, 230 Big Beaver, will give their 17th pints during the two blood banks to be held here next week.

### 239-Ft. Hunter Frontage Sold For \$300,000

One of the largest real estate sales in months in Birmingham was completed last week when J. J. Levy, of Royal Oak, president and owner of the Oakland Oil & Gas Co., sold approximately 70,000 square feet of land on the former B. & O. right-of-way between E. Maple and Ridgedale, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Alkan, owners of a restaurant and delicatessen store on the property.

### Incumbents Opposed in B'ham Vote

Incumbents will have opposition in their races for re-election in Birmingham's April 4 municipal election. A 30-year-old attorney has decided to run for a three-year term. He is Robert B. Aikens, 1725 W. Lincoln. He faces incumbents Mrs. Florence Willett, William H. Burdum and William C. Ashby, whose petitions already have been filed.

CLAUDE KIDD, merchandising manager for the J. C. Moholland Co. department store here, revealed yesterday he will oppose Lance C. Minor for the one-year term to fill a vacancy.

Kidd lost to Burgum last year when the latter won election to a one-year vacancy. His party at 4:30 p.m. is the deadline for filing petitions with the city clerk.

So far, Mrs. Carolyn Ashley Vogt is unopposed for the two-year vacancy.

In announcing his candidacy, Aiken said: "In the past 15 years, Birmingham has undergone a period of rapid expansion. Its problems were primarily the result of this growth."

"TODAY the city has reached maturity. The basic problem now confronting us is to maintain our position as a desirable residential community."

"In order to successfully achieve this goal, we must focus our attention on tomorrow. We must develop concrete plans which will make our city an object of civic pride."

"During the next few weeks I will announce a number of projects which I believe to be essential if this objective is to be realized." (See OBJECTIVE on Page 6-A)

### Murder Plot Charged to Widow, Friend

BEVERLY HILLS—For the second time in less than a year, this neighborhood was stirred up Tuesday in a mixture of emotions which included shock, indignation and wonder.

Friends and neighbors thought and talked of Mrs. Nelle Lassiter, the attractive blonde widow who lives in the gray colonial house at 1930 Beverly ridge, in the heart of this community.

MILLIONS of newspaper readers also focused attention on Mrs. Lassiter when she was charged Monday with first degree murder and conspiracy in the death last April of her husband, Parvin.

Mrs. Lassiter stood mute Wednesday morning when arraigned before Dearborn Township Justice of the Peace John L. Mokorsky. A plea of not guilty was entered for her by the court, and examination was set for March 4. Mrs. Lassiter is being held without bond.

Wayne County Prosecutor Olan Lassiter and Gordon Watson, business associate with Lassiter in a major car import business.

FOR THE PAST several months Watson has been working in Los Angeles, where he was arrested by police.

The strange twist of circumstances occurred during the trial of three men charged with the April 9 killing of Lassiter.

The charge which has been filed against Mrs. Lassiter has drawn almost as much subsequent attention from neighbors as it originally did from Mrs. Lassiter when she was arrested by police.

SHE HAS BEEN steadily protesting her innocence.

One of Mrs. Lassiter's outraged neighbors characterized the arrest as "a trick."

"Everybody thinks she is a fine neighbor," she said. "I have a very nice family. I think that was the loudest trick that was ever pulled off."

Others rallied to defend the neighbor they liked so well. "People seem to be getting agonizing grief when she learned of her husband's death."

SOME EXPRESSED doubt and wonder about the case.

"None of the neighbors knew what would happen when Mrs. Lassiter's 18-year-old daughter, Zonita, was arrested with her son, prematurely born on Washington's birthday."

Young Mrs. Thomas M. Starov talked joyfully about her baby son from her room at Detroit Osteopathic hospital Wednesday. She is living with her mother while her husband is stationed at Fort Hood Tex.

"I hope Mom will be home when I get there," she said, in a soft, pleading voice. "I'm a housekeeper, Mary, will be there."

POLICE SUCCEEDED in getting defendant Richard Jones, to switch his plea for innocent to guilty in the murder of Mrs. Lassiter. (See PLOT, Page 3-A)

### 10-Cent Increase For B'ham Phones

Michigan Bell Telephone company Friday announced filed new rate schedules which would increase the price of residence service a dime a month in Birmingham and Mayfair.

## More Mauro's Signed For 1960-61 Town Hall

An international roster of speakers has been scheduled by Birmingham Town Hall for its 1960-61 season.

Starting with Hardy Amies, the Britisher who is "Courtier by Royal Appointment to Her Majesty", the popular lecture series' schedule also includes French literary giant Andre Maurois.

The United States is represented on the program by Dr. Smiley Blanton, author and dean of modern psychiatry, and author and world traveler Emily Kimbrough.

TWO ADDITIONAL speakers will be announced later.

Mrs. George H. Cary, Birmingham Town Hall president, will announce the new program when she introduces British author Barbara Ward today and tomorrow at Birmingham theatre.

Miss Ward speaks at 11 a.m. both days on "The Unity of the Free World."

Next season's program open Sept. 29 and 30 with rectorial courtier Hardy Amies speaking on "Are Clothes Really as Important as All That?"

Maurois will deliver "Can People Understand Each Other?" on Oct. 20 and 21.

Dr. Blanton's topic Jan. 12 and 13 will be "Love in a Changing World," while Miss Kimbrough will speak on "The World as I See It" and "Listen While You Look."

BIRMINGHAM Town Hall is sponsored by St. Anne's Church and St. James church. Information about tickets can be obtained by calling Birmingham Town Hall.

Miss Ward will be honored guest at celebrity luncheons at the Birmingham Town Hall, both days. Mrs. Edward F. Codner will be hostess to today's speaker.

The March 1 deadline is only five days off and the entrance tax on the first stretch of concrete laid in Michigan in 1916.

HE THEN gravitated into supervision of the World War I (See PALMER, Page 2-A)

### Palmer's Past Includes Many Accomplishments

By AL SANDNER Staff Writer

Everyone who has lived in Birmingham for more than a few years knows about Ray A. Palmer.

He's got a record which covers civic and community activities going back more than half a century.

And Tuesday noon, a bunch of Palmer's pals took his record out of the "files" and looked again at these accomplishments.

Palmer, born on a farm near Plainfield (seven miles north of Kalamazoo) Feb. 22, 1880, worked his way through Kalamazoo college, was captain of the football team, president of his freshman class and of his fraternity. He received his degree in 1904.

### Schedule Set For May 16 Mayor Trade

Mayors of Birmingham and area municipalities now know where they will be going when Michigan municipalities swap mayors May 16.

Birmingham's mayor heads for Carsonville, a city of 487 in the thumb, seven miles west of Port Sanilac.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS and Muskegon Heights trade that day. The Hills mayor will leave the 18,826 population of the Muskegon suburb.

Froy's mayor will be the mayor of Fraser City.

Beverly Hills and Reading (pop. 1,128) are scheduled to swap. Reading is between Colliwate and Hillsdale, about 10 miles north of the Ohio border.

FRANKLIN and Union City (pop. 1,564, 10 miles northwest of Colliwate) will exchange.

Lathrup Village's mayor will head Reed City, a town of 9,241 population, 10 miles north of Big Rapids and directly south of Cadillac.

Stoutfield and Pierson swap. Twenty miles north of Grand Rapids, Pierson has a population of 163.

Woodcrest Farms will send its mayor to the Upper Peninsula city of Calumet (pop. 1,256) on the Keweenaw peninsula.

All makes of new spring mattresses need. Order service. Call 205-265-1111. THES COMPANY, Dist "O" and ask for Executive Office.

## British Queen's Dress Designer Coming, Too

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### Root: 'Teachers Get More, Next Door'

Any examination of the Birmingham school district's salary schedules in comparison with neighboring school districts would find Birmingham lacking, said Bennett W. Root, treasurer of the local board of education.

School Superintendent Dwight B. Ireland and the other by George Miller, head of the Birmingham Education Association's salary committee, point up the fact that Birmingham has slipped into an unfavorable salary position in relation to other school districts in the metropolitan area.

IT IS THESE districts that Birmingham must compete against in order to secure new instructors and retain the ones it already has.

In Dr. Ireland's study of the Metropolitan Detroit Bureau of Education's salary schedule starting salary of \$4,500 ranked 40th (14-way tie), Birmingham's top salary of \$600 was 28th but, as Miller pointed out, the discrepancy was 28 times as much.

Two different studies, one by



It's birthday number 80 for Ray A. Palmer, Birmingham resident, former mayor, city commissioner, school board member and president. Birmingham Exchange club feted Palmer and his wife Elizabeth with a birthday dinner Tuesday.



BARBARA WARD

### Firemen Present 7th Annual Party

The members of the Uniformed Firemen's Association are planning to have their 7th annual theatre party at the Birmingham theatre, Thursday, April 21.

The firemen will be knocking at your door shortly, wearing their uniforms so that all may recognize them, conducting their ticket sale.

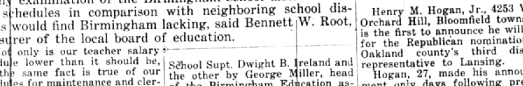
This is a benefit show to raise funds for the Family Welfare and Recreation fund of the Uniformed Firemen's Association.

### Eton Park Has Best Year Yet

Members of the Birmingham City Commission were glad to learn this week that the Eton Municipal Skating rink is well within its allotted budget.

Commissioner William E. Burdum, told the commission that the rink will be able to pay back nearly \$2,000 which the city had advanced last year.

He said, "the operating budget for the rink will be only \$19,000, with revenues in excess of \$13,000. This is about \$4,000 more than expected. The recreation board will get the rest of the surplus."



HENRY H. HOGAN, JR.

### Henry Hogan, Jr. In Race for State House

Henry M. Hogan, Jr., 4253 West Orchard Hill, Bloomfield township, Birmingham, has announced he will run for the Republican nomination as Oakland county's state representative to Lansing.

FOR THE PAST years, Hogan has been a Bloomfield township trustee. He is the son of Henry M. Hogan, legal counsel for General Motors Corp.