

# Three Potential First Ladies Discuss Their Futures

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Staff Writer

Our next president may have been there. So might the next vice president. And the next first lady of Michigan may have been among three of the women there. They have a lot in common these days—their husbands have announced their candidacy for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

2-C THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC March 31, 1960

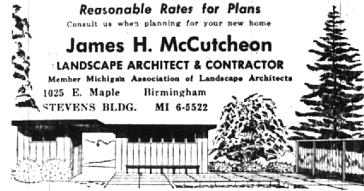
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It was Saturday night in Detroit, and 3500 Democrats were at a Jefferson-Jackson dinner to see and hear potential presidents.

A big roulette wheel known as politics seemed to spin dizzily over the huge room. You wondered which man was on the lucky number.

You wondered what all the national and state candidates there were thinking—and what their wives were thinking. The gubernatorial candidates' wives had mixed emotions.

Pretty, blond Alice Swainson was confident that 34-year-old Lt. Gov. John B. Swainson was the man who would be Michigan's next governor. Ann Hare, slim and smart, in black, seemed equally assured that, slightly balding Secretary of State James M. Hare would

Hilda Connor sat beside distinguished-looking Detroit council-



## Leaving for Honolulu

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Howard of Hamilton drive, Birmingham, aboard the SS Lurline in San Francisco just prior to departure for Honolulu.



## Acquiring Suntans

Relaxing with a leisurely lunch in Camelback Inn's famous Sunshine Alley, the pool area, are Mrs. James A. Pearson (right) of Ann Arbor and Mrs. David R. Burton of Brookwood drive, Birmingham. They are currently acquiring desert suntans at the resort near Phoenix, Ariz., and golfing on neighborhood fairways of Paradise Valley country club.

man Edward Connor, feeling more certain of her husband than of herself.

IF ONE of the three should replace Nancy Williams as Michigan's first lady, would she try to emulate her predecessor's whirlwind pace?

Emphatically no, says the wife of recently-announced candidate Connor. With admirable candor and a wave of her hand, she explains, "I couldn't possibly. I wish I could, but I couldn't."

Ann Hare admits she would "just have to wait and see." But she would never try to imitate. Her son-in-law, straightforward manner shows she believes it when she says, "You have to be yourself."

But Anne Hare wouldn't be one to sit home in the governor's mansion and knit. She likes people too well.

"I DON'T think you could stand politics if you didn't," she says with a laugh.

Ask Alice Swainson, and you get a quick reply on whether she would be a square-dancing, meeting-attending, speech-making wife like Governor G. Mennen Williams' Nancy.

Says Mrs. Swainson sincerely, "I don't think anybody else could ever do as well as Nancy's. I don't think I would even try."

Still, Alice Swainson is frequently by her husband's side, poised and charming as the greets people.

SHE INTENDS to go along "as much as possible" when he campaigns, as Ann Hare will do. Hilda Connor admits she's not looking forward to it, because she doesn't like the limelight. "I'm scared to death by it all," she says earnestly.

But like the Biblical Ruth, she says, "Wherever he wants me to, I'll go with him."

Each of the three lives in a different community, has different interests.

THE HARES live in Lansing with three Scouting enthusiasts, Patricia, 13, Michael, 11 and Bruce, 8. Their tall, attractive mother constantly uses skills she acquired as a Detroit elementary school art teacher.

She belongs to the Lansing art guild, to the art section of the AAUW, directs art activities at her church and the YWCA, and helps with Cub Scout projects.

The family moves to their cottage at Long lake in Commerce township every summer. Between twice-weekly visits to the cottage from their dad, the Hare children make frequent trips to Cranbrook and Detroit with their mother, who loves Oakland county and raves about metropolitan area cultural life. (She's not going to miss Carl Sandburg at the Birmingham art festival.)

ALICE SWAINSON lives in Plymouth, usually sees her husband only on weekends. He commutes then from Lansing to be with her and Stephen, 12, Peter, 10 and Tina, 14.

Now she takes time out from her young family to work with organizations such as the St. Mary's hospital guild, the lawyers' wives, the Plymouth Democratic club and the PTA.

Though she shuns the limelight, Mrs. Connor is genuinely sincere, completely unaffected. There's a touch of regret in her voice when she says she likes to entertain in her Detroit home, but seldom does because it's hard to plan a date when her busy husband will be free.

IF HER husband's activities bring him to Michigan's governorship, she'll be a first lady who is not at all like Nancy Williams. Neither is Ann Hare or Alice Swainson.

But one thing is certain, if one of the three should become our next first lady, the people of Michigan are going to like her.

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