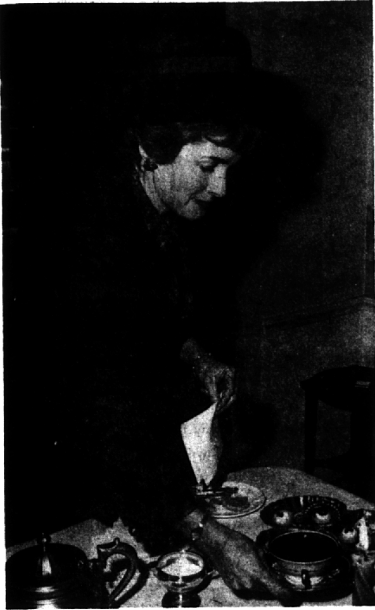


Judges Pick Homemaker, Salute Runners - Up



MRS. ROBERT K. SAYED



JUDGES MRS. GORDON HOWE (LEFT) AND MRS. EDWARD TALBERT PRESENT MRS. WALTER H. EKBERG (CENTER), BIRMINGHAM HOMEMAKER OF THE YEAR, WITH AWARD - WINNING SILVER TRAY.



MRS. LEE W. KEATING



MRS. D. J. WESTERBY



MRS. THOMAS F. A'HEARN



MRS. NORBERT W. HUGHES



MRS. CLARION E. COOKE

Top Ratings Of Birmingham Women Made Choice Difficult

By MARY ELLEN MEAD
Society Editor

A panel of four local judges—Mrs. Gordon Howe, Mrs. Edward M. Talbert, Mayor Bill Burgum and Bob L. Kilpatrick—sat in the family room of the Kilpatrick home on Hupp Cross Road Sunday and Friday, Nov. 21 and 22, in Chicago.

She and her husband will be flown to the Windy City the night before (all expenses paid), stay at the Drake Hotel, participate in the two-day festivities, and return to Birmingham Friday clutching, it's hoped, the National Award of \$5,000!

reached Monday morning when Mrs. Walter H. (Mary) Ekberg of 918 Brooklawn was chosen to represent Birmingham in the National Homemaker Contest Thursday and Friday, Nov. 21 and 22, in Chicago.

While in Chicago—in addition to dining and attending teas, luncheons,

dinner and the theater—Mary will meet her counterparts from suburban communities all over the country—top homemakers all.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, while the National Suburban Homemakers Conference is in session, each local winner will be called out of the session, one at a time, for a brief personal interview with the national judges. At the conclusion of these interviews, the judges will select the national winner and three runners-up.

While in Chicago—in addition to dining and attending teas, luncheons,

MARY EKBERG IS a delightful, vivacious blond, the

mother of three children—Jan, 15, Jim, 11, and Jo Ann, 5—and wife to husband Walt who loves everything about her including "the antiques she sometimes drags home, which at first sight appear to be a real mess!"

A visit in Mary's home, however, proves she can find ways of making collector's items fit artistically into the decor. The interior of her house is traditional—done in soft blues, purples and green—while the outside is contemporary ranch.

Mary does all her own work, but has also found time to serve on the Pem-

broke PTA board; as a room mother; working for the League of Women Voters and the YMCA Capital Funds Drive; has been a Little League Baseball Mom and works for her political party.

ACCORDING to husband Walt's entry letter, "She has an inexhaustible capacity for contributing to every endeavor, plus loving care and seriousness of purpose (without loss of joyfulness), which leaves a special glow all about her. She is a strong spiritual force in her family, teaching by example. She carries this spiritual strength into her Sunday school class and into

her many church and civic assignments and activities.

"Her concern for the physical, mental and emotional health of her family is clearly demonstrated by her untiring efforts to insure its reliance on God's protection, which is essential to overall happiness and well being.

"She can 'make a dollar out of fifteen cents' with family time and money. She spends for things that count most and seldom goes off the deep end. Her ability to sew has really stretched the budget. Time wise, she can handle the most complicated situations arising out of the

varied activities of her family; she's always there when she is needed.

"SHE IS A capable seamstress and has made beautiful clothes for herself and her two daughters. Purchased clothing is equally well planned, with the result that she and the children are nearly always attractively dressed. Though our 11-year-old boy would prefer torn blue jeans, shirt pulled out and dirty sneakers, he has recently showed signs of interest in some of his presentable outfits.

"She creates a wholesome family environment and pro-

vides each member motivation and opportunity for social and emotional growth. This makes them strong links in the family chain. Her willingness to try tent camping led to five years of memorable family experiences, for instance.

"I look forward to coming home each night. Our children find home a warm and happy base of operations."

THIS, THEN, is Mary Ekberg in the eyes of one who knows her best—her husband.

Those of us who've met her only briefly are ready to agree.

FINAL DECISION was

Eccentric Photos by Bill Thom