

# Innocent Man Is Freed But Still Believed Guilty

**A PRIVILEGED CHARACTER.** By Jean-Pierre, translated from French by Francis Price; Doubleday; Garden City, N.Y., 281 pp.; \$4.50.

Reviewed by **MARIAN TRAINER**

A man is murdered. The murderer is apprehended, tried and convicted. New evidence is introduced. The accused is cleared, freed. His wife and child welcome him. His friends rejoice with him. A new life in another city awaits him. Yet, he, Maître Pierre Montaud, refuses what justice has finally accorded him. Why? Because he knows that his wife, his friends, the public still believe him guilty in spite of his acquittal. And Montaud is determined to sweep his name free of the shadows of doubt.

"I INTEND not only to claim and to regain everything I had before—my practice, my position, my clients—but to make everyone who tried to destroy me pay back the debt they owe me" he vows, but it is not that easy. Those who have stood by him try to warn him. According to their position, they try to point out the difficulties he will encounter. The commissioner gives the view of a man of the law: "The Montaud case will go down as a model of the judiciary process. In the first place, the law ventured to accuse a highly placed person. Ergo—equal justice for all.

"IN THE SECOND PLACE, you

were acquitted because of insufficient evidence. Ergo—no one can be convicted if there is a shadow of a doubt. And you are casting doubts on this display of a perfectly balanced justice.

"You're a pernicious influence. It would be better if you went away and confirmed the legitimacy of the verdict." His wife, who has been personally hurt because his trail uncovered his love affair with another woman, pleads with him: "We have saved something that seemed to be lost forever. Don't gamble it now for the sake of some obscure vanity . . ."

**THE ATTORNEY** general tries: "Your presence here might be the source of further trouble; you are certain to encounter all sort of difficulties—I might even say hostility."

His best friend tries to reason: "Suppose you go ahead with your own investigation; you make all kinds of a row, and in six months you have to admit that you have failed, that you couldn't find the guilty person. Then what?"

To them all he replies: "Ever since I got out of prison, there has been a conspiracy to force me to leave this city. There are a lot of people who don't want me here for good reasons. My acquittal, together with my way of thinking, makes me a very awkward person to have around."

"I PERSONIFY the fallibility of justice. I am living, breathing

evidence of a mistake. I have become a 'case in point' that will be used when anyone wants to prove that the law does make mistakes."

And so Montaud pits himself against society; a man attempting to free himself from suspicion in a world more comfortable believing him guilty.

He finds that those who are willing to help him live under the shadows of doubt will have nothing to do with him in his struggle for vindication. He is alone with his cause. A lesser man might have given up.

**BUT MONTAUD** is not only stubborn, he is also a lawyer and experienced in ferreting out elusive evidence for clients. He is determined in his search for the facts which will free himself.

Everyone who has figured in the crime is included in his investigation, the victim's mother, his former mistress, his law partner, even the police themselves. Everywhere he meets hostility until he begins to doubt himself, whether in an hour of distress and possible lapse of memory, he actually did commit the murder.

His psychological disintegration is almost complete when he accidentally discovers the truth.

"A PRIVILEGED CHARACTER" is lifted out of the realm of the light mystery category by tight staccato prose which has lost nothing in its translation from the French in which it was originally written;

and by the character of Montaud himself. He is a highly intelligent man, and his verbal duels with those from whom he seeks to wrest respect and expiation are sharp, witty and discerning.

The ending is a surprise one; one that vindicates Montaud, reveals the true killer and at the same time tempers justice with not so much mercy as common sense.

In this season, when a shady spot and an intriguing book are part of the waning summer scene, "A Privileged Character" can add to your summer enjoyment.

## B'field Hills Tenor Leaves For Florence

Dennis Eynon, 18, of 20 Martell, Bloomfield Hills, left Thurs., Aug. 29, for Florence, Italy, where he will study at the Conservatorio di Musica Luigi Cherubini. Eynon is a June, 1968, graduate of Bloomfield Hills High School. He will spend two years in Florence, studying Italian literature and history, Italian language and a thorough background in music (opera), their history and their meanings.

A dramatic tenor, he was winner in the senior high vocal division of the statewide music auditions of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, sponsored by the Michigan Cultural Commission, held at Interlochen last May.

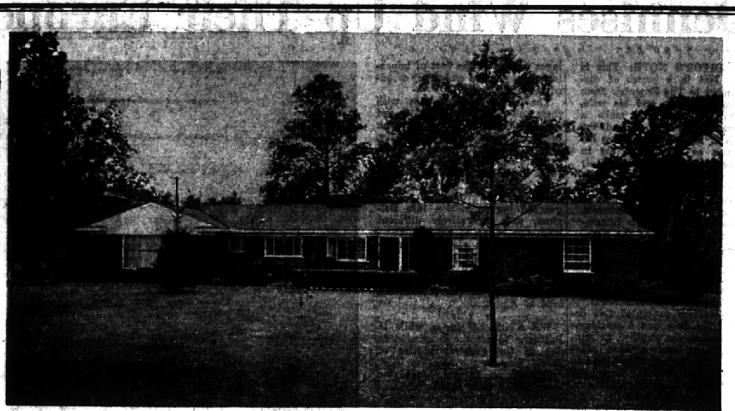
**AT THE HONORS** assembly for his Bloomfield Hills High School graduating class, Eynon was presented with a certificate from the music department and signed by Clarence Luchtman, director of music and Richard Spiess, principal, which read:

"In recognition of the greatest male vocalist in the history of Bloomfield Hills High School. May you use your God-given talent to its fullest possibilities. Congratulations and best wishes."

Young Eynon also was the alternate winner of the Robert C. J. Traub memorial scholarship in music, awarded in May. He departed for his forthcoming European studies from Montreal on the Greek line. Then he proceeded to Hanover, Germany, to spend one week at the home of Manfred Salaschek, who was a foreign exchange student at Bloomfield Hills High School last year.

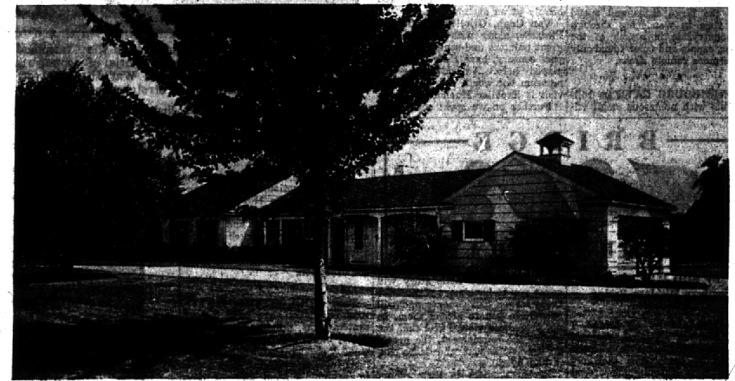
The two teen-agers plan to tour Europe together next summer.

The motto, "In God We Trust," has appeared on U.S. coins since 1864, but was not included on paper currency until 1957. The idea for using the motto is credited to a Rev. Watkinson of Pennsylvania who wrote to the Secretary of Treasury in 1861, suggesting that God be recognized on the country's coins. The secretary, Salmon P. Chase, asked James Pollock, director of the mint in Philadelphia, to prepare a motto, and "In God We Trust" appeared for the first time on a two-cent piece in 1864.



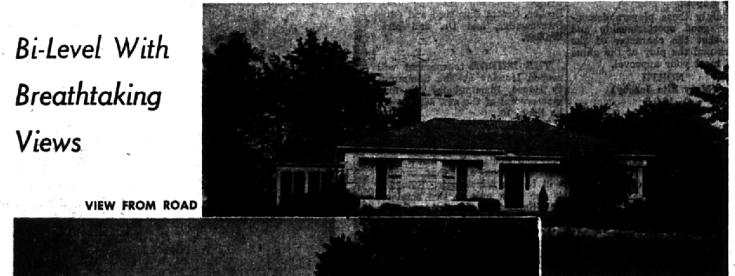
### Your Answer to Space! 4 Bedrooms — 2½ Baths

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### Bi-Level With Breathtaking Views

VIEW FROM ROAD



VIEW FROM SOUTH

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## 5 Receive Degrees at Oakland U.

Oakland University awarded degrees to five Birmingham graduates Aug. 25 at a brief ceremony followed by a reception in the Oakland Center.

They are James J. Burkart, 2970 Hinbrooke, liberal arts (economics), who plans to enter the U. S. Air Force and serve his military obligation before going on to graduate school. J. Anthony Hammer, 1269 Yorkshire, liberal arts (English), who will work for master's degree at University of Chicago; Barbara Irvine, 2593 Squirrel Road, secondary education (mathematics), who will teach in Berkeley schools system.

**PHILIP B. MACK**, 311 E. Frank, liberal arts (economics), who has won a \$2,200 fellowship from the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations and will study for a master's degree in labor economics at Wayne State University; Mack has been a scholarship student.

Jo Anne Reberger, 32267 N. Auburn, liberal arts (history), who plans substitute teaching in Birmingham schools.

## Movie Guide

Parenteen Committee  
Birmingham P.T.A. Council

MOVIE	Green Sheet National Legion of Decency	A & M Y	A-2
The Thrill of It All			B
That Touch of Mink		GA, C	A-1
Flipper		GA	A-1
Summer Magic		GA	A-1
Young Guns of Texas			

**CODE GREEN SHEET**  
These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of the films to which they are applied.

- A Adults
- MY Mature Young People
- Y Young People (12 years to 16 years)
- C Children (unaccompanied by adults)
- GA General Audience

**NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY**  
A1 Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage  
A2 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents  
A3 Morally Unobjectionable for Adults  
B Morally Unobjectionable in Part for All  
C Condemned  
SC A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.

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- Master Bedroom with dressing room . . .
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- Travertine Marble Foyer . . .
- Large porch . . .

Birmingham Schools



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