

## Flashes

By James Warren

If the 2,000 members of the Dairymen's League, and all other milk producers would follow the advice given them by Charles H. Baldwin, chairman of the State Milk Control Board today, the dairy industry would show great improvement. Bluntly he told them that the Control Board was a "tremendous experiment," without any precedent; that all of them were in the same boat and advised everybody to start rowing with all their might to make the experiment a success. In that case he said there would be plenty of glory for everybody and everybody connected with the milk industry would benefit.

One of the chief things the matter with the milk industry of the state has been inability of the producers to pull together. Half a dozen or more organizations have been formed, each one of them pulling and hauling in a different direction, but all of them trying for the same goal, more money on the farmer. Until the State Control Board was created by the legislature things were in a bad way. They have improved greatly, but there is still plenty of room for further advancement.

One reads with a variety of emotions of an account of a policeman being poked in the jaw by a speakeasy patron and taken to the hospital. In the first place why should a uniformed officer go into a speakeasy when on duty "to get a few drinks." Another, why should he go back a second time, and why should he tap a woman on the shoulder and say "the chief wants to see you." The lady's escort can hardly be blamed for taking a swing at the officer and sending him to the hospital. And how is it going to make the average motorist feel when this or some other officer stops him and says he has been violating the law?

A couple of day's work struggling with several hundred applications for beer licenses was enough to partially break the deadlock in the local beer control board. The two members hurried up and named some clerks and stenographers and will designate more shortly. But the matter of appointing the executive secretary is apparently as high in the air as ever.

Decision of the New York Regional Market Control Board to choose Syracuse as the site of the proposed \$500,000 market building has been expected. Surveys taken by the state authorities showed Syracuse as the logical distributing place for Central New York, while the 12 directors themselves were practically unanimous that this city be chosen. The erection of this building will help the unemployment situation here. The structure, with land, will cost around \$500,000, according to early estimates.

The welfare departments of several towns in the county are already feeling the effects of the rejection by the Board of Supervisors of the Ley Creek sewer project. Five hundred men who have been working on the lake boulevard and park project have been dropped and they will now get home relief from the townships. Within a very short time more men from the park project will lose their jobs and unless other work is found for them, all will go back to the welfare lists.

The Chamber of Commerce is now interesting itself in the creek matter in a left-handed way. Through its health committee, a sub-committee has been appointed to investigate it from a "sanitary" standpoint and determine whether it is a health menace. All this committee need do is to write to Health Commissioner Thomas Par-ran, Albany, N. Y., and get a copy of some of the letters he has written to Randall Melvin, Dr. Frederick W. Sears and several others, in which he calls this creek the "worst health menace in New York State." Also Dr. Sears may give the committee some valuable information. The district health supervisor has on file complaints from farmers who say the creek is dangerous even for their cattle.

The supervisors themselves, the work relief bureau, the city authorities and everybody who has seen or investigated the matter at all, are willing to acknowledge the creek is a health menace. An investigation by the committee won't change conditions there. Where the investigation is needed is to find out what to do with the 2,000 county work relief employees if the Ley Creek proposition is to be sidetracked.

The Rev. Bernard C. Clausen has resigned again from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church and this time insists he means business. He has received a call from a Pittsburgh church and says he will assume his new duties there Nov. 1. This is the fourteenth time Dr. Clausen has resigned, it having been his practice to submit his resignation every year at the annual meeting of the church body and let his congregations decide whether they would accept it.

Sixteen men and women in the prohibition enforcement office in Syracuse will be hunting jobs soon if President Roosevelt's recommendations for abolishment of that bureau are carried through. Since the legalizing of beer the enforcement staff has had an easy time of it, with indications that there would be less and less for them to do as time goes on.

# ARRAIGN SLAYER STEARNS ON FIRST DEGREE CHARGE TODAY

## INN PARTNER SHOT DOWN IN FIGHT

WHERE FORMER WEALTHY CHICAGO CONTRACTOR SHOT PARTNER DEAD

Clarence Storms Killed at White Rock Beer Parlor At Galeville.

Justice moved speedily Thursday as arrangements were made to arraign Harold N. Stearns, 41, former

wealthy Chicago contractor, who slew his brother-in-law, Clarence Storms, 47, of 334 Seymour st., Wednesday night, on charges of first degree murder.

The arraignment will take place at the county courthouse Thursday afternoon and is scheduled less than 24 hours after Storms was shot to death

at White Rock Inn, which he and his slayer opened jointly as a beer garden Monday. The inn is located on the old Syracuse-Liverpool highway near Galeville.

In the absence of District Attorney William C. Martin, who completed his probe of the murder early Thursday morning, Assistant District Attorney Donald Wawhinney has taken over the prosecution.

Captured at gun-point by Deputy Sheriffs Ray Guilfoyle and Tommy Cooper less than three hours after he had fled the inn, leaving the body of his victim lying in the center of the roadhouse dance floor, Stearns was docile and tractable when he was questioned by officials at the county jail.

REFUSED GUN DUEL. From him and from four of the persons held as material witnesses, Martin and his staff of aides drew the full details of the argument which was climaxed when Storms refused to meet his brother-in-law in a gun duel and was shot down.

Guilfoyle and Cooper recovered the .38 caliber gun which Stearns is said to have used, as well as the gun which Storms refused to take, in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. William Ball, 221 Green st., where they found Stearns in hiding.

In the three-hour interval during which city police, deputy sheriffs and state police laid countywide traps for him, Stearns nonchalantly drove to his home, 334 Seymour st., changed his clothes and drove to the Ball apartment. William Ball is his stepson.

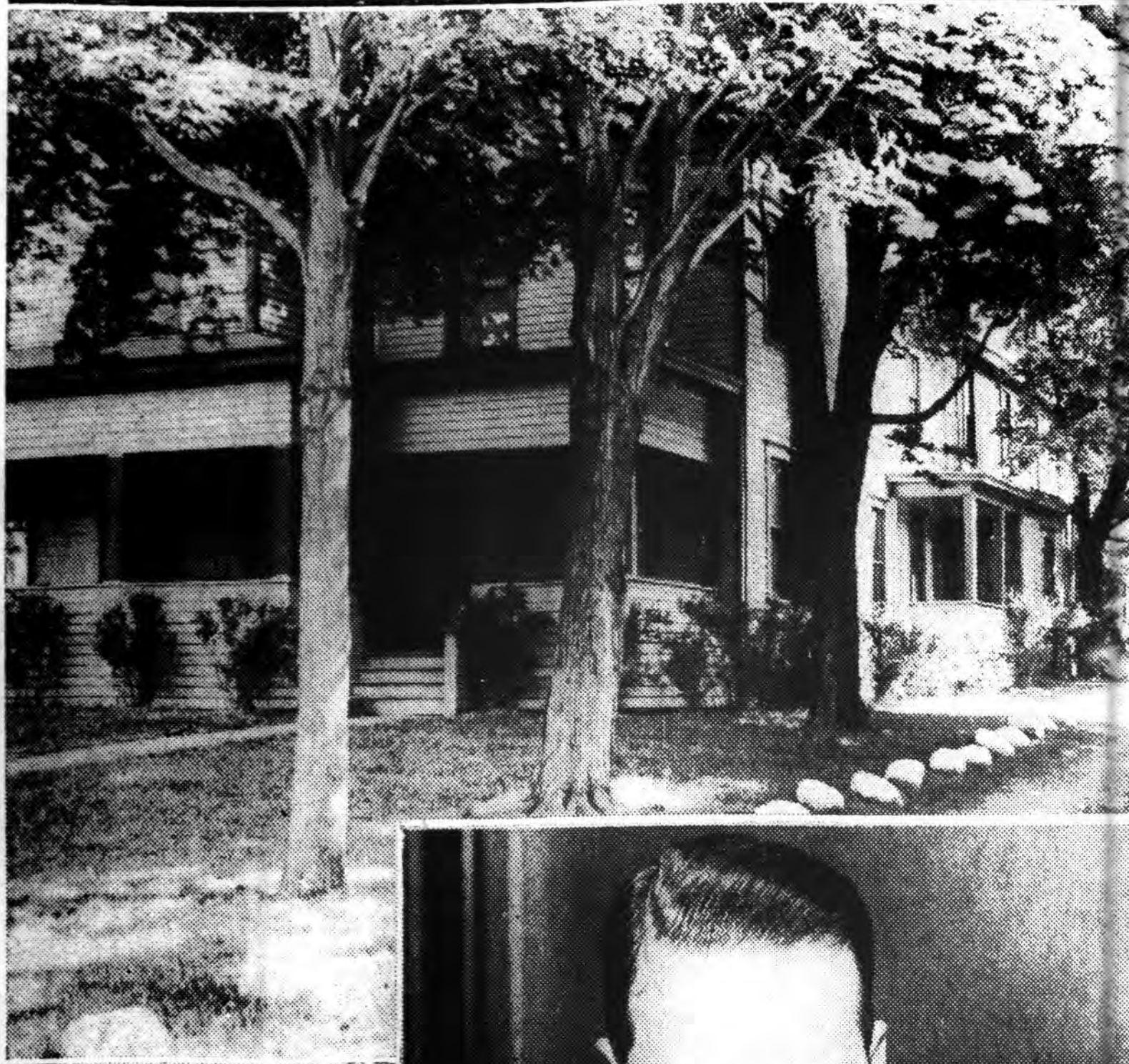
FULL CONFESSION. There, according to the stepson, he made a full confession of the slaying. Torn by sobs which wracked his body, tears streaming from his eyes, he begged Ball to take care of his mother, Mrs. Stearns. Patiently, apparently resigned to his fate, he waited there for the arrest he knew was inevitable.

First report of the slaying came to officials at 9:15 p. m. from Mrs. Bessie Stearns, 37, wife of the accused killer. When deputy sheriffs arrived at the beer palace, formerly known as the Maples, they found Storms dead on the floor. They questioned his widow and Mrs. Stearns, both of whom had witnessed the slaying, and then broadcast complete descriptions of Stearns.

The hunt became state-wide when it was learned that Stearns had driven away from the beer garden in his car and guards were placed on all roads leading from Syracuse to prevent the car from leaving. They questioned his widow and Mrs. Stearns, both of whom had witnessed the slaying, and then broadcast complete descriptions of Stearns.

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The deputies searched the apartment. In pockets of Stearns' discarded clothing they found letters and cards bearing several Syracuse addresses. They also found a bill from a garage listing repairs on Stearns' car. This also gave them the information that the car bore Illinois license plates and gave them the numbers.



Scene of Wednesday night's slaying of Clarence Storms, 47, by his brother-in-law, Harold Stearns, White Rock inn, formerly the Maples, on the Syracuse-Liverpool highway, near Galeville, was taken over by the partners as a beer garden on Monday.



MRS. BESSIE STEARNS. Tragedy was enacted before the eyes of Mrs. Bessie Stearns Wednesday night, when she saw her husband, Harold N. Stearns, shoot down Clarence Storms, her brother-in-law, at the beer garden they operated jointly near Galeville.

In the living room. Cooper covered them with his weapon while Guilfoyle searched the rest of the apartment. He found Stearns cowering in the kitchen. At the sight of the deputy's gun, the latter offered no resistance while he was handcuffed. A moment later the deputies who had been summoned as reserves

were on the scene. Guilfoyle and Cooper searched the apartment. They found one gun secreted in the kitchen cabinet. The other was tucked away in a bedroom drawer. Later they recovered two clips of cartridges.

Stearns and Ball were taken to the county jail. Stearns' only requests en route were for cigarettes. Both men were questioned there by District Attorney Martin and Assistant District Attorney Wawhinney. (Continued on Page 34, Column 5.)



HAROLD N. STEARNS. Shaken by the events of the night, Harold N. Stearns, alleged slayer of his brother-in-law and partner, Clarence Storms, during an argument at their joint beer garden Wednesday night, was to be arraigned Thursday afternoon on charges of first degree murder. He was formerly a wealthy Chicago contractor before he came to Syracuse five weeks ago.

## Lay Final Plans for Conference University Women's Parley

Final plans were made Thursday for the annual conference of state officers and chairmen of the American Association of University Women and branch officers in Syracuse, Friday and Saturday.

Presidents and chairmen of the 27 branches in the state will assemble at a dinner meeting in the Y.W.C.A., Friday night, following a tea in the afternoon at which members of the local branch will play host to the visitors. Among the visitors who will attend the convale, headed by Miss Jane Louis Jones, dean of women at St. Lawrence University, president of the state division, will be: Miss Elizabeth B. Kirkbride of Albany; Miss Louise M. Reynolds, Mrs. Angus H. MacLean and Miss Mabel Milhan of Canton; Mrs. Earle H. Kennard and Mrs. H. C. Thompson of Ithaca; Miss Ruth Withers of Buffalo; Mrs. Catherine Kane and Mrs. Jessie Woodruff of Dunkirk; Mrs. Harold R. Torrance of Ausable Forks; Mrs. John Dar-row, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Lavery, Mrs. MacAffee and Mrs. Emerson Fite of Poughkeepsie; Mrs. Charles Cleaves of Rochester.

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## STEPSON TELLS OF STEARNS' SOBBING

Shaken and sobbing, Harold Stearns, 41, thought only of the trouble he had brought on his wife by his alleged slaying of Clarence Storms, his brother-in-law and partner, at their Liverpool-Syracuse road beer garden, as he waited patiently for the arrival of police at the home of his stepson, William Ball, of 221 Green st., last night.

Bewildered by the startling events of the night, Ball described his stepfather's reactions to the slaying to The Journal early Thursday morning, shortly after Stearns' arrest and a few minutes before he himself was locked up at the county jail as a material witness.

Stearns, the hard Chicago resident, who carried two guns in his car for "protection," broke down and cried like a baby as he told his stepson of the slaying and begged of him always to take care of his wife, Ball's mother.

That was Ball's story as he related it early this morning while District Attorney Martin and his aides grilled Stearns on details of the slaying.

"My wife and I were just getting ready to go to bed. It was a little after 10 o'clock when we heard a sudden knock on the door," he answered the door. My stepfather was there. He walked in, sat down and began to talk calmly.

"He told us of his scuffle with Storms, my uncle. Tears welled in his eyes as he recited the story and he had only spoken a few minutes before he was crying like a baby. Over and over, he repeated that the whole thing was an accident."

"Then he turned to me. 'They'll get me soon, Bill,' he said. 'All I want of you is your promise that you will always take care of your mother, but he made me promise that faithfully.'

"My wife and I were bewildered. We didn't know what to do or think. His crying unnerved us both. For the most part we sat quietly in the living room. He walked around the back of the apartment."

"Around midnight, someone else knocked on the door. I answered it and a deputy sheriff pushed a gun in my ribs and shouted, 'Stick 'em up.' I was so taken by surprise that I almost forgot to obey, but that deputy meant business. So did the officer who walked into the kitchen where my stepfather had been for some time. In a minute that officer and my stepfather came out. My stepfather had handcuffs on his wrists."

WILLIAM BALL

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