

Let's Take a Look

By

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(Special to The Highland Park Press)

Albert Larson, Highland Parker

During the past year the writer has interviewed such widely known personages as Adm. Nimitz, Secretary of War Patterson and Highland Park's Gen. Wainwright — but, in each case, it was easier to see these men than it was to arrange an interview with Mr. Albert Larson, veteran Highland Parker and one of this town's favorite citizens!

The reason we haven't been able to see Mr. Larson is that he has been too busy — minding his grandchildren, working at Nafe Larson's store, or tending to his household chores.

But we cornered him last Sunday. And we had a grand chat with him in his cozy home at 133 S. Green Bay road.

WASHING STORM WINDOWS . . .

We found Mr. Larson hard at work in his garage. There the well known merchant was industriously washing storm windows with the aid of kind, pleasant Frances Larson, Mr. Larson's wife. (Incidentally, the Albert Larsons have been happily married for 39 years.)

After completing the one window he was washing (and it sparkled when he finished it!) we went into the house and talked.

Mr. Larson, now 66, but as peppy as ever, has lived in Highland Park all his life. He was born here; he was schooled here; and he has been one of the town's leading merchants since 1906 when

he opened his first store, situated where Earl W. Gsell's store is now.

TOWN CLERK SINCE 1906 . . .

Albert Larson has been Town Clerk since 1906; and he's a Past Master of A. O. Fay Lodge No. 676, A.F. & A.M.

"I've seen Highland Park grow from a country town of 3,000 to the busy little city of 14,000 it is now," he said, adding:

"And you know, each year it seems to me the people of Highland Park have got nicer, friendlier, and more tolerant."

(And we'd say Mr. Larson is a good judge for during the past 40 years over 3,120,000 persons have entered his store!)

TOLERANT APPROACH TO LIFE . . .

We asked Mr. Larson to explain what he meant by the word "tolerant."

"Well, it's understanding the other fellow's viewpoint; understanding it and appreciating it; appreciating it and believing he has

a right to his opinion just as much as you have a right to yours.

"This sounds simple," Mr. Larson continued, "but it isn't. Yet in the last 40 years I've seen Highland Parkers grow more tolerant of one another. This is a good sign indeed. And I sincerely believe that if this same kind of tolerance became spread over the nation, and into the international picture, we would have no more talk of wars."

MRS. LARSON ENTERS . . .

About this time Mrs. Larson entered her spic-and-span living room and joined in our conversation.

We learned that the Larson family — that is the Albert Larson family and his brothers totals 66, and most of them live in Highland Park!

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Larson have two children, Brad and Lois. Brad lives in Boston, is an ex-Navy officer with a splendid record, and the father of a son, Kent. Lois is Mrs. J. W. Kent, mother of handsome twin boys, Brad and Cal, age 5. The Kents live in Springfield, Mo.

ASKS ABOUT THE STORE . . .

We asked Mr. Larson more questions about the store, now owned and managed by his nephew, Nafe, and his wife, Dorothy.

Larson's Stationery Store, 37 S. St. Johns, is a landmark, having been in that location since 1921.

It's just a small shop, about 35 feet wide and 75 feet deep.

But it's packed with hundreds of interesting things. According to Mr. Larson, the store contains over 2,500 items ranging from newspapers to candy and from Christmas cards to fountain pens.

"Selling greeting cards is our No. 1 job; then stationery, school supplies and gift wrapping," Mr. Larson said.

CHILDREN EVER PRESENT . . .

Happy children seem to be ever present around this warm shop and we asked Mr. Larson about his technique of handling youngsters.

"Oh, they're not hard to handle," he said. "We just treat the children with kindness and patience and they respond beautifully to the treatment."

"We see a cross section of Highland Parkers every day of the week for we're open daily from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays," he continued.

"Persons from 3 to 83 come into our shop. In the early morning, it's the commuters, getting their newspapers and busting off to work. Later it's the children on their way to school. And in the afternoon, it's Mrs. Highland Parker."

"Yes," Mr. Larson went on, "it has been a long, happy life here in Highland Park and I've thoroughly enjoyed working with the many fine-people in this town," he concluded.

"I've got a freak over on my farm," reported Farmer Brown. "It's a two-legged calf."
"Don't need to tell me that," snapped Farmer Jones. "He came over to call on my daughter last night."

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William G. Stratton

A WORLD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCENE

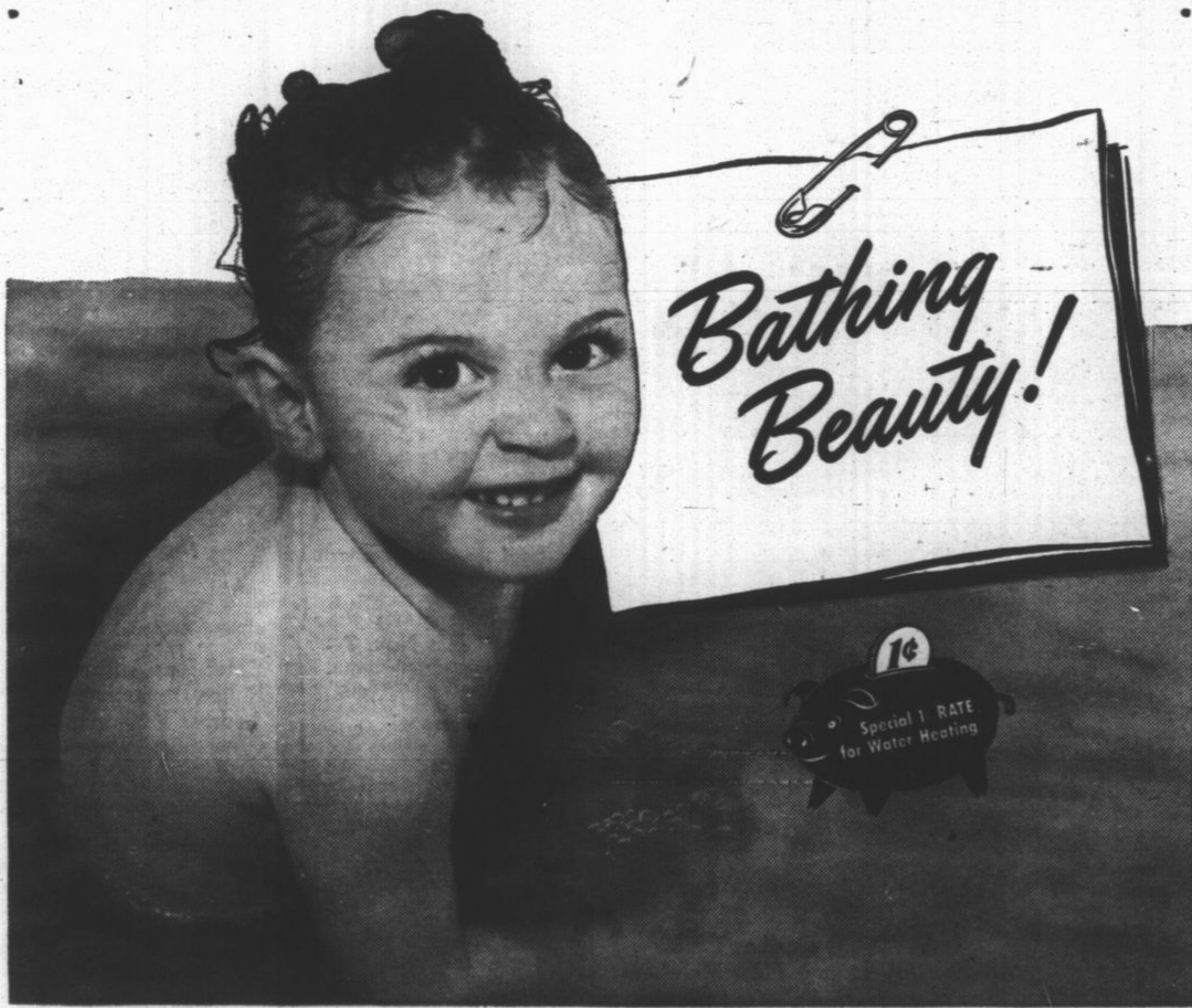
From across the Atlantic comes a realistic appraisal of the American political scene. The following observations by the editor of the London Sphere, banishes partisan party lines and spotlights today's struggle between two irreconcilable ideologies:

"The U. S. has 6 per cent of the world's area and 7 per cent of its people. It has 60 per cent of the telephones, 80 per cent of the motor cars, 85 per cent of the world's railroads. It produces 70 per cent of the world's oil, 60 per cent of wheat and cotton, 50 per cent of copper and pig iron, 40 per cent of coal and lead. It has eleven billion dollars in gold. It has two-thirds of the world's banking resources. The purchasing power of its people is greater than that of all the people of Europe or all the people of Asia. Responsible leadership which cannot translate such a bulging economy into an assured prosperity is destitute of capacity. But pompous statesmen looking over the estate solemnly declare that the methods by which it was created are all wrong, ought to be abandoned, must be discarded, and that the time has come to substitute political management for individual initiative and supervision. There is only one way to characterize that proposal and that is as just damn foolishness."

When you go to the polls next Tuesday, let your judgment be guided by a vision of government you wish to bequeath to your children.

*This advertisement is published in behalf of
William G. Stratton, Republican Candidate for
Congressman-at-Large*

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