

# Deep and Shallows

## Sixty-four Dollar Question

I never did go for this business of love at first sight. Nope... I'd known Virginia for fully five minutes before I realized that for me it must be Virginia — Virginia or nobody at all. I liked her looks, and the more I looked, the better I liked them. And when she turned those wide, calm eyes on me, with their little glowing candles... oh, boy, it was Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with a dash of Fourth of July thrown in! I mean to say — I was really that way about her.

But... I took good care to guard my feelings. No percentage in giving away your hand, I always say. "Play the cards close to your chest, boy," I told myself. Another thing, I'm not the type to go around burbling, "You send me, kiddo," and nonsense of that sort. I would just let things drift for a time, keep Virginia well in sight, and if anybody took a notion to bust in on my territory... mur-der!

Another thing — I couldn't be quite sure of Virginia's feelings toward me. Oh, I knew she liked me, but did she like me well enough?

So things drifted along, in a platonic sort of way, for quite some spell. We had our good times. But I should have known that the guy knew his onions when he said that the course of true love never runs smooth.

I never would have suspected Virginia of having any truck with atomic bombs. But she sure threw one into my apparel that night. We were talking to some friends — or Virginia was. I was standing around in the pleasant, half-dazed condition that had become habitual to me of late. And then I — with my own ears — heard her say it:

"My married sister wants me to spend the winter with her in Florida. And after all, what's the good of having relatives in Florida if you don't take advantage of the fact to duck the bad weather we know is coming?"

I had started a cigarette, and I swallowed the smoke. I burst into a fit of coughing. Tears streamed from my eyes. But my physical discomfort was nothing compared to my inner turmoil. Virginia in Florida! Strange men running after her — making love to her! To VIRGINIA — MY GIRL. MUR-DER!

I didn't wait for the moonlight night, or for the cozy twosome before an open fire that I'd had in mind. No-sir-ee. I grabbed Virginia by the wrist and whisked her away from there — but fast.

"What's all this about Florida?" I demanded, glaring.

"Oh, that... Why I thought it would be nice..."

"Oh, yeah? Well, that's what YOU think. Look here — you're not going to Florida or any other place... see? You're staying right here, and you and I are getting married immediately — SEE?"

Brutal way to propose marriage to a girl. But... it worked.

"Gracious, honey," Virginia murmured, "it certainly took you long enough to come to the point."

I gaped. So Virginia had known all along how I felt about her... after all my caution... But there were certain conventionalities to be attended to... I closed my mouth and took care of that matter — but good!

And now I am a bit concerned — not too much, but a little — over just one thing. As we go through life will Virginia always know what I am going to do before I know myself? That, as I see it, is the sixty-four dollar question.



Who Dat?

A small, persistent stranger is tapping at our door... A little naked New Year — feature that... Of course he'll be admitted and made much of, that's for sure, but he'd jolly well better behave himself — the brat!

### A Toast

And now to our readers... We give you 365 days of health, happiness and prosperity!

—R.B.O.

### Amherst Christmas Luncheon Dec. 27

North Shore alumni, undergraduates, and fathers of undergraduates of Amherst college will hold their annual Christmas luncheon on Friday, Dec. 27, at 12:15 p.m., in the Wedgewood room of Marshall Field & Co.'s main loop store, where they will hear a program of American songs by Mark Love, Chicago Opera Co. and radio baritone. The program is similar to that presented by Mr. Love for GI's in a 200,000 mile world-wide tour of army and navy bases during the war.

Henry C. Higginbottom, Evans-ton, is working with club president Robert J. Koretz, Highland Park, in preparation for the event. The program has been arranged by George L. Treadwell of Kenilworth, secretary of the Rotary club of Chicago.

### Home for Holidays

Paula Raff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Raff of Cedar avenue, is spending the holidays with her parents. Paula teaches physical education at the Mt. Clemens high school, is a member of the community chorus, and a girl scout leader. She was a member of the Great Lakes hockey team which competed in the national woman's hockey tournament on Long Island over the Thanksgiving holidays.

Morton Raff, who is still working for the Naval Ordnance laboratory in Washington, D.C., is home for a week. He is taking a course in mathematics at the University of Maryland, and is a member of the Arlington Civic orchestra.

### Rowena Bennett Will Lead Creative Writers

With the presentation of awards last Thursday, for the best manuscripts the North Shore Creative Writers completed the autumn term. Mrs. Ruth McGibeny, the class leader, devoted the forenoon to reading manuscripts.

A luncheon followed, with the decorative scheme heralding the Yuletide. Mrs. Mildred Haessler, president, presided.

Dr. Charles Yount, professor of English literature, Lake Forest college, who presented the poetry awards, prefaced the presentation with illuminating suggestions and an analysis of the reasons for his selections of the winners. In advanced poetry the prize went to Hazel Dame, Elmhurst. In the beginners' group, Emily M. Floyd of Winnetka, was the choice.

The judges of prose were Mrs. Frank Peers and Mr. Charles Mason, both of Highland Park. Mrs. McGibeny made the awards: Genevieve S. Dove, Elmhurst, was awarded first prize for her character sketch "Rosie." The runner-up was Beatrice Steinman, Highland Park, for a juvenile entitled "Adamas." Top honors in fiction went to Jessica Chamberlin, Villa Park, for her story "Off Shore Wind." Alice M. Tozier, Elmhurst, won honorable mention with "Growing Pains."

A highlight of the afternoon was a recitation by Rowena Bastin Bennett, long time resident of Ravinia, of her poem "Wraith of the Skokie." Mrs. Bennett will introduce the winter term Jan. 9 when she will explore the general field of juvenile literature, and examining manuscripts previously submitted. Manuscripts, prose and poetry should be sent by January 2 to the program chairman, Mrs. I. M. Greenberg, 1329 Judson avenue, Highland Park. The luncheon hostesses of the day will be Highland Park members. No workshop is scheduled.

### Christmas Program

(Continued from page 1)

"Friendly Beasts" (French legend)—Green Bay school.

"O Come Little Children (Schulz)—fourth and fifth grades.

"Away in a Manger" (German carol)—all children.

"There's a Song in the Air" (Speaks)—girls sextette.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (old French melody)—6th, 7th and 8th grades.

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (American carol)—children and audience.

"Celestial Choirs" (Carpenter)—girls chorus.

"We Three Kings of Orient Are" (American carol)—boys chorus.

"Silent Night" (Gruber)—children and audience.

Prophecy from Isaiah — Morton Moss.

"A Little Child" — Jessie Orton Jones and Elizabeth Orton Jones.

(Filmed by Children's Productions, Palo Alto, Calif. Acting by children of the Community theater.)

"Hymn to Joy" (Beethoven)—children and audience.

Presentation of White Gifts.

"Joy to the World" (Handel)—children and audience.

Jessie Orton Jones and her daughter, Elizabeth Orton Jones, presented a lovely Christmas gift—the showing of the sound-color film, "A Little Child." This beautiful Christmas picture was filmed from the book by the same title which was written by Mrs. Jones and illustrated by her daughter.

Prior to the showing of the film, Mrs. Jones, a former parent of Elm Place school, described the filming of the picture by Children's Productions at Palo Alto, Calif. Elizabeth, an Elm Place graduate, told of her experiences in illustrating the book. She explained that she had spent much time in the Jesse Lowe Smith auditorium while working on her illustrations and had drawn upon it and the children of Elm Place school for her ideas.

At the close of the program, children came to the stage and placed their "White Gifts" at the foot of a beautiful Christmas tree. These many gifts were presented to the children of the Lake Bluff orphanage, Arden Shore association, and Ridge Farm preventorium.

### Of Ben Hecht Who Donates His Talents to Great Causes

Of all American playwrights, Ben Hecht, noted dramatist, movie scenarist, novelist and short writer, has consistently been the most liberal in donating his talents to great causes. When Hitler was on the march and the nations of the world tried appeasement, it was he who wrote the unforgettable pageant, "Fight for Freedom," dramatically calling upon America to arm for World War II. Again, when Hitler was ruthlessly decimating the Jewish peoples of Germany and the conquered countries, Hecht, out of the fury of an anguished heart, wrote the imperishable "We Shall Not Die." And now, with hundreds of thousands of displaced Jews pitifully begging for a chance to resettle in Palestine, Hecht has composed what may well be his masterpiece, "A Flag Is Born," an electrifying and passionate plea for the rebirth of the Jewish nation.

The critics, as one, rose to acclaim it. Ward Morehouse, in the New York Sun, said it was "genuinely stirring." Howard Barnes, New York Herald-Tribune, hailed it as "brilliant and imaginative." Walter Winchell summed it up as "a battle cry for justice and decency, worth seeing, worth hearing and worth remembering."

Produced originally for a run of only four weeks, the dramatic impact of "A Flag Is Born" on playgoers has exceeded all expectations. Because there are more attractions seeking playhouses than there are theaters presently available, "A Flag Is Born" has been forced to shift homes every few weeks. Nonetheless, it has played to capacity for 11 weeks at the Alvin, the Adelphi, the Music Box and Broadway theaters in New York, and is now scheduled to open a four week engagement at the Studebaker theater, Chicago, Thursday night, Dec. 26. Jacob Ben-Ami is the star, the featured players are Celia Adler and Sidney Lumet, and a cast of one hundred rounds out the acting personnel.

Ben Hecht is a study in contrasts. By nature he is shy, modest and unassuming. When he is aroused by man's inhumanity to man, he becomes a fighter, hits articulately with all the fire in a sensitive soul. Perhaps this explains the degree of success he has managed to attain in putting into thrilling dramatic form three of the outstanding pageants of modern times. He knows the stage, and with human decency and right on his side skillfully succeeds in integrating an explosive compound of propaganda and eloquently moving theatre.

A native of New York, Hecht was raised in Chicago and became one of the most colorful reporters here. Out of his experiences he wrote, in collaboration with Chas. MacArthur, "Front Page" as earthy a piece of theatre as has hit the boards in our time. Recently revived, it shared the Broadway spotlight with four other Hecht contrived entertainments—the films, "Specter of the Rose" and the Alfrid Hitchcock produced "Notorious," plus his stage play, "Swan Song," and, of course, the current "A Flag Is Born."

Hecht is now back in Hollywood once again turning his talents to films and fiction, but every evening the California operator brings his voice to the box office of "A Flag Is Born" with anxious inquiries on the night's attendance. He doesn't receive a penny in royalties, all of the money going to help the unfortunate of Europe find a peaceful home in Palestine, but the success of the play means more to him than the many alluring contracts held out to him by movie makers and publishers.

The management of "A Flag Is Born," incidentally, has established a special mail order service for out of towners.

### American Legion Holds Special Election

There will be a special election at the next meeting of the Highland Park post of the American Legion, tonight (Thursday)

A vacancy exists in the junior vice commander's chair due to the resignation of Eugene Singer from that chair at the last meeting, Dec. 12.

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