

Newest Freak Twist in the Notorious Thaw Case

Harry (Once Broadway's Own) Is a Volunteer Fireman on Main Street, While Evelyn (Born in a Small Town) Vows She'll Never Leave the Bright Lights.



Harry Thaw, from a Photograph Taken When He Was a Military School Cadet.



How Harry Thaw Looks To-Day with the Sort of Helmet He Will Wear as a Member of a Volunteer Fire Company in Winchester, Va.

BORN to the purple, suckled on champagne and stimulated by the hot breath of cities, the world's most notorious multi-millionaire—Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White—seems destined to end his career in the drowsy, conservative hamlet of Winchester, Va., where he took himself when a Pennsylvania jury granted his sanity and gave him his freedom.

At the same time, only a few hundred miles from Winchester, along the brilliantly lighted boardwalk at Atlantic City and among the razzle-dazzle cabarets of Broadway where Thaw once reigned, is the woman whose name and fortunes were once so inextricably linked to his—Evelyn Nesbit, for whose honor Thaw said he fired that startling shot on Madison Square Roof Garden eighteen years ago.

Thaw, arch-type of city rounder in his youth, plans to live out his years in a small town. Evelyn, fresh from just such a small town as Winchester, when Thaw first was fascinated by her, says she will never leave the white lights. Could Fate have arranged a more ironic finish than this for the pair whose names have flashed across the front pages of America again and again for the last two decades?

No greater contrast to Harry's Thaw's young manhood in Pittsburgh, New York, Rome and Paris could be found than his present serene jog-trot existence on Main street. On the one hand he finds a social life based upon the aristocratic tradition of the Virginia gentleman; on the other hand a religious and moral life nurtured by the uncompromising creeds of Wesley and Calvin. And on both hands an atmosphere—however mildly—of Main street.

Is Harry Thaw dismayed? Does he pine for the days when he broke all the glassware in the Hoffman House bar and settled for \$400? Will he grow restive as a simple village burgher and return to the high-jinks that characterized his life up to the time of his incarceration and trial?

Thaw says, "No," to all such questions. He has settled down for good and proves his intention by seeking membership in the Presbyterian church, subscribing to local charities and adding his name to the Charley Rouse Volunteer Fire Company, the busiest band of smoke eaters in the Blue Ridge. He has also taken permanent title to Kenilworth, an 150-year-old mansion and farm which has been one of the show places of the town. His intentions, he points out, are the very best.

But the simple life, he has discovered, is often more complex than it sounds. To begin with, Thaw arrived in the Virginia hamlet when the details of his insanity trial in Philadelphia were still fresh in the minds of everybody, everywhere—even in Winchester—where the newspapers. This trial resulted in Thaw's permanent release from the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, but during its course witnesses testi-

fied that Thaw was in the habit of throwing rabbits against the wall, billing their ears and otherwise practicing cruelties upon them.

He found, therefore, when he arrived in Winchester that the first element in the community which he had to win over was the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This organization—fifty strong in this town—heard reports that Thaw intended to stock his farm at Kenilworth with pigs, rabbits, chickens and other animals and took immediate alarm. Scouts were sent out and the good ladies took an oath that no indignities should be practised upon innocent rabbits as long as they were alive and well.

Then one day, shortly after Thaw had arrived at the age of sixteen.

Evelyn Nesbit When She First Came to Broadway, at the Age of Sixteen.



Kenilworth, the 150 Year Old Mansion, Where Harry Thaw Is Making His New Home.

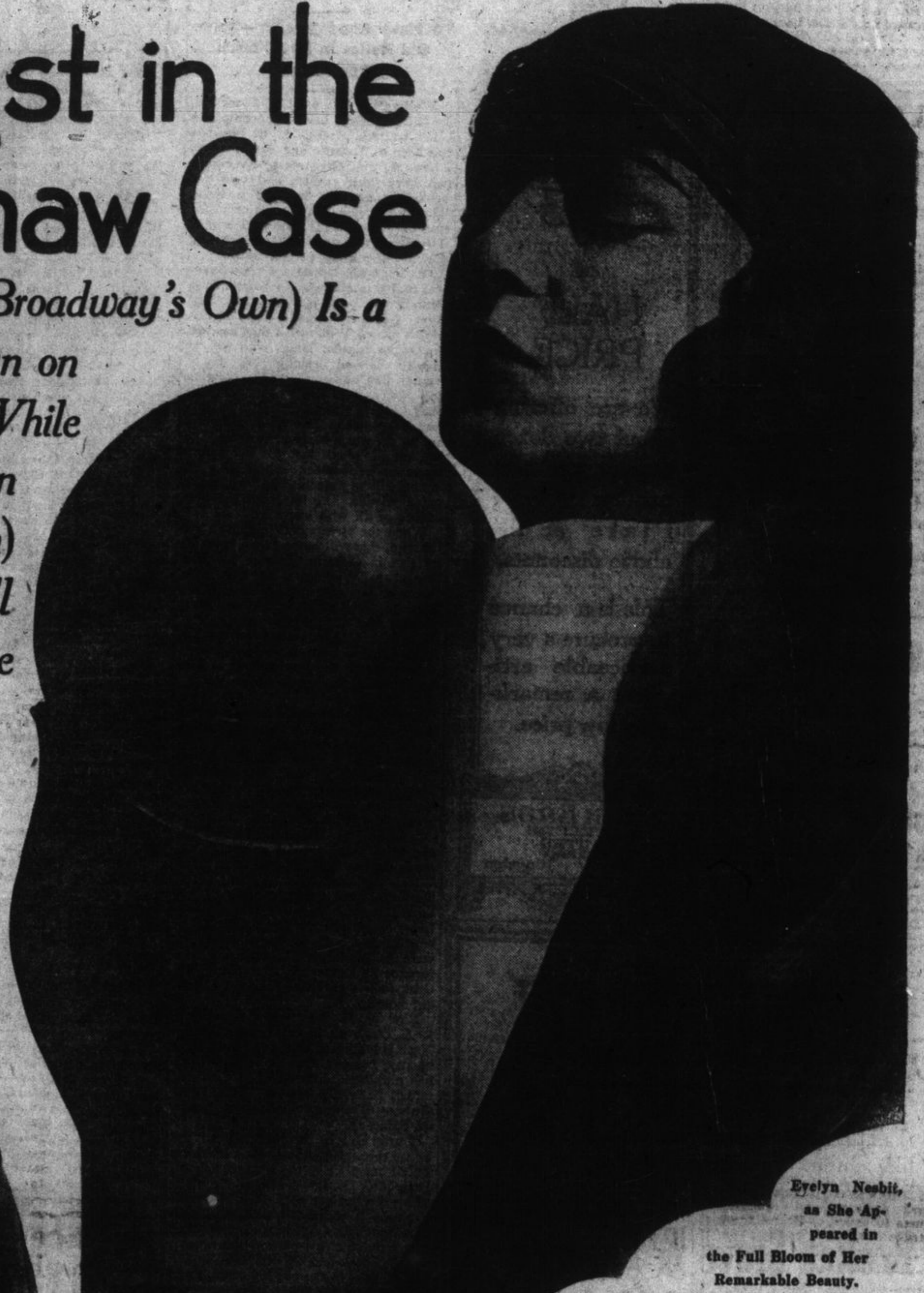
rived and set up a temporary residence at the local hotel, Miss Augusta Conrad—a militant member of the S. P. C. A.—made a trip to Kenilworth. Her report greatly agitated the whole community. She had seen a cat running about without a tail.

A committee was sent back to the farm, intent

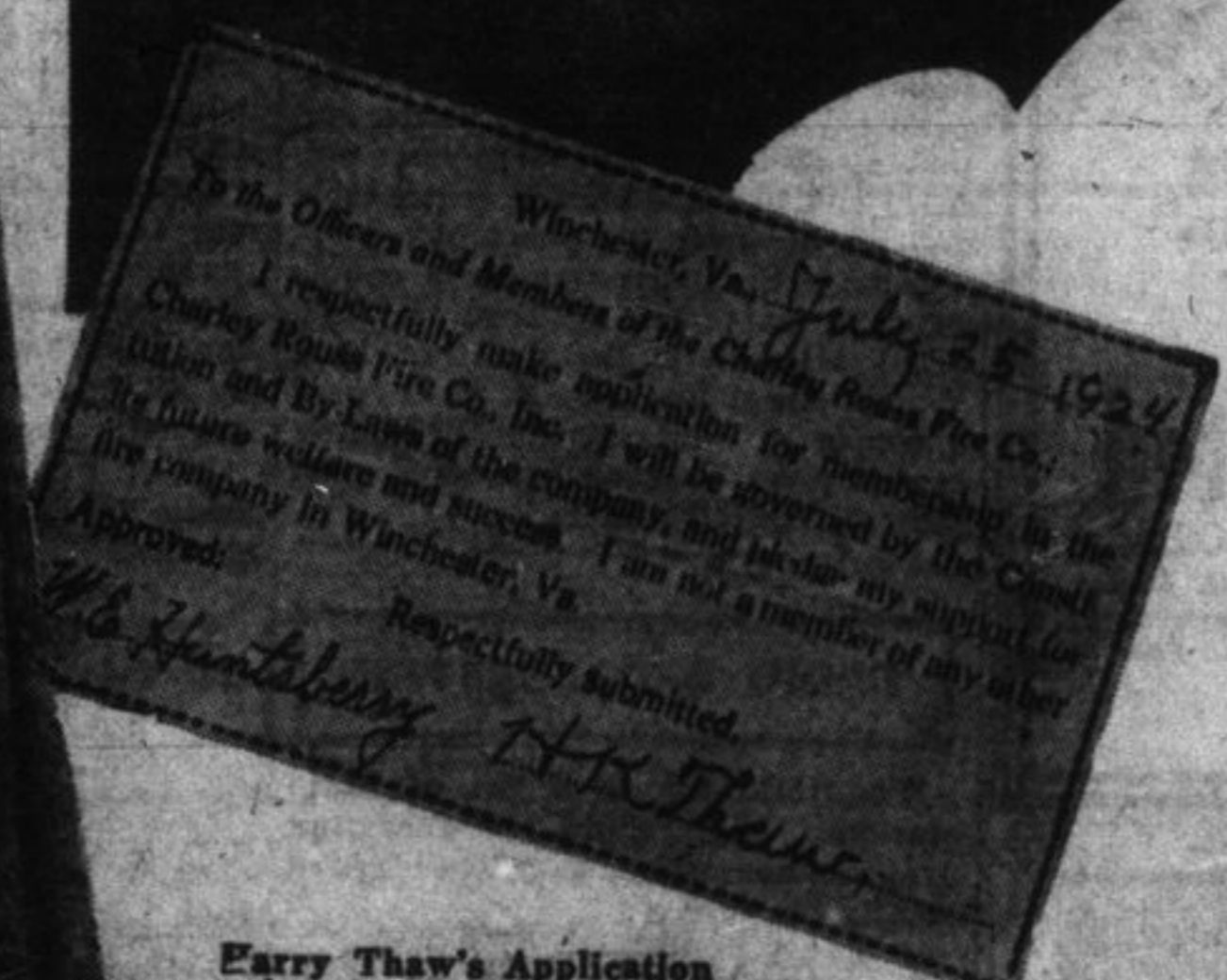
on having the law on its own. But when the cat was examined it was found to be of the hot-tailed variety. So action—and indignation—was suspended. The society is still on the watch, however, to see that the Thaw animals are treated with the proper consideration.

But Thaw's direct bid for a recognized place

Newspaper Feature Service, 1924.



Evelyn Nesbit, as She Appeared in the Full Bloom of Her Remarkable Beauty.



Harry Thaw's Application for Membership in the Charley Rouse Fire Company.

in the community met with even greater resistance—though less obvious—from the old-line conservatives, who resented from the first the "unfavorable publicity" which they felt Thaw would bring to the town. They were determined he should be treated as an outsider.

They were, consequently, much indignant when they heard that the Rev. R. T. McPadden, pastor of the Presbyterian church, had called on Thaw three times, and after the third visit had invited him to become a member of the church. They did not deny that Thaw had a right to religious consolation, but they were inclined to think that the pastor had been too ready in his visits. But friends of the pastor pointed out that a precedent for the whole community was established when J. B. Russell, Union Bank president and a social leader, visited Thaw and his mother.

When the Thaws attended services at the church for the first time the incident immediately became one of first-rate civic importance. The little church was crowded with members and non-members, all of whom were impelled by a great curiosity to see just how the slayer of Stanford White would conduct himself in a house of worship.

His conduct was unimpeachable and when the collection plate came around he deposited therein a crisp \$20 yellowback. In some way this fact was telegraphed to the other worshippers in the rear of the church and the effect on the succeeding contributions was immediately felt. The members acted up to the Thaw standard—some of them gave even more—and the total collection was greater than it had ever been in the history of the church.

The next day it became known that Thaw had been accepted for membership in the Charley Rouse Fire Company—which is a social as well as a civic organization. The community then realized that the rich Pittsburgher was deter-

mined in his effort to become a "leading citizen" and began to divide up into Thaw and anti-Thaw factions.

The latter charged that persons who had been friendly to Thaw were influenced by his money; the former accused their detractors of an un-Christian attitude. Feeling ran high. The Ku Klux Klan held a meeting in the hills.

At this juncture, Dr. J. F. Ward, the Mayor-elect of Winchester, in an effort to bridge the gap among his seven thousand fellow townsmen, served notice that Thaw must be given a square deal. At the same time he declared that too much familiarity was perhaps not a wise thing until Thaw had proved himself to be "worthy."

There the matter rested. The Thaws—Harry and his mother and his personal attendant—went ahead with their plans and Kenilworth began to blossom. The old-timers, it is said, will never take the Thaws to their bosom, but the younger generation is expected to meet the millionaire's efforts to content himself with the life of the town more than half way.

Meanwhile, the other unforgettable principal in the Thaw case has announced her intention of taking up her life again in New York. In direct contrast to the man who killed another on her account she goes back to the high tension life of the city as an operator of tea rooms,

High Spots in Harry Thaw's Career.

- 1870—Born in Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 1891—"Permitted" to leave Harvard after a high stakes poker party.
- 1900—Spends \$50,000 for a dinner on a group of Paris beauties.
- 1902-03—Meets Evelyn Nesbit and takes two trips abroad with her.
- 1905—Marries Evelyn Nesbit in Pittsburgh.
- 1906—June 22—Kills Stanford White on Madison Square Roof Garden.
- 1907—Jan. 23 to April 12—Faces trial, jury disagrees.
- 1908—Second trial—Acquitted, but declared insane.
- 1908—Committed to Mattawoman, applies for habeas corpus, and is recommitted to Mattawoman.
- 1912—Escapes from Mattawoman to Canada.
- 1913—Deported from Canada and rearrested in New Hampshire.
- 1915—Tried for conspiracy in New York and acquitted; tried for sanity and found sane.
- 1916—Gets divorce from Evelyn Nesbit.
- 1917—Recommitted to asylum for insanity.
- 1924—Declared sane and released from Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane.
- 1924—Buys estate in Winchester, Va., and settles down to country life.

after three years of recuperation from sickness and of "hard work" in the provinces.

Harry, the spoiled child of the cities, has settled down on Main street. Evelyn Nesbit, the small-town Pennsylvania girl, seems likely to spend the rest of her life as a full-blown metropolitan.

Thus ends the latest scene in "The Amazing Adventure of Harry Thaw."