

THE DIVORCE COURT MURDER

by MILTON PROPPER



Twelfth Installment.
SYNOPSIS—Barbara Keith, wife of a prominent Philadelphia business man, is murdered as she waits alone in a side room to testify in the divorce case of Rowland vs. Rowland. She was to have testified for the husband, a friend, who was defendant in the action. Detective Tommy Rankin is assigned to the case from police headquarters. His preliminary investigation disclosed that both Mr. and Mrs. Rowland had gathered evidence against the other of infidelity. The will of Mrs. Rowland's first husband directed her lawyer brother, Mr. Willard, to handle the estate until she remarried when the new husband was to come into control. Detective Rankin finds motives and the evidence of guilt for the murder of Mrs. Keith, leading to the doors of virtually all of the principals are the two Rowlands, Mr. Willard, Mr. Keith, husband of the murdered woman, Hugh Campbell, paramour of Mrs. Rowland, and his underworld confederates.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY
 Wisley, Miss Edmond made no effort to deny the charge. "Where did you learn that?"

"From Harvey Willard, of course . . . and Mrs. Rowland," Rankin returned, provocatively. "They informed me of your entire part in the collusion—how, as secretary, you agreed to pretend an affair with the husband. And how you climaxed the 'intrigue' with the affair at the Inn." He smiled contemptuously.

As he intended, anger burned in the girl's eyes, as much directed against her erstwhile confederates as against his insulting comments.

"They told you that? But it was their plan; I had nothing to do with it and had no interest in it, until I innocently took the job as secretary."

"Just the same, you've conspired to defraud justice and commit perjury under oath," the detective put in coldly.

Jill Edmond's resentment, increasing with her alarm, loosened her tongue. "I won't be a fool for them." She clenched her fists. "They may have told you a lot, but they left out even more. You haven't heard yet that they tried to double cross Mr. Rowland. There was a woman he really loved—for whom he wasn't faking an affection; and they attempted to catch him with her—his real mistress."

"His real mistress? What do you mean—he was unfaithful, after all?"

"Yes, he had a mistress; and here is more news to surprise you," Miss Edmond spoke triumphantly. "They didn't tell you her name, either, Mr. Rankin; it was Barbara Keith—Mrs. Mortimer Keith! It was with her, not me, that he went to the Sunset Inn February first, to spend the night!"

"Mrs. Keith?" Rankin ejaculated. "Good heavens, how can that be possible?"

He could hardly credit his ears. He had expected information from the girl, but never, in his wildest speculations, such a startling, overwhelming revelation.

"To clear up this whole business for you, Mr. Rankin," she related, "I had better begin at the beginning. What they said about hiring me and planting the impression Allen and I had an affair is probably correct; they'd have no reason to lie about that. Up to the day we chose for the final discovery, everything went according to plan. It was arranged to catch us together, Thursday, February second; you know, as secretary, I had every Thursday off and usually spent it with Allen to increase suspicion. He was to write a note, making an appointment to meet me that night at 8 o'clock in town. Mrs. Rowland would supposedly discover it, turn it over to her brother and Dorkin, and the three of them would watch our meeting. Then, to produce proofs of our relations, Allen and I were to drive to the Roadside Hotel, thirty miles out along

the Lancaster Pike, and there be trapped in a bedroom together."
 "The detective's face screwed into a baffled, uncomprehending frown."

"This was set for Thursday, the second? But according to Mr. Willard and the testimony," he objected, "the climax really was acted the day before, Wednesday, February first. And it took place at the Sunset Inn, instead."

Jill Edmond smiled vindictively. "Yes, that's so; that is where the double-crossing comes in. The whole program was advanced one day by Mrs. Rowland's treachery in trying to drag Mrs. Keith into the scandal. She failed only because I was too much for her. At the hearing afterward, she couldn't prove anything against Mrs. Keith, so she, Mr. Willard and Allen had to stick to the story they originally planned and change only the necessary minor details, such as the date and the scene. After all, so far as Dorkin was concerned, he witnessed on Wednesday substantially what we intended him to see on Thursday; and that was the evidence he offered."

Still Rankin wore a puzzled look. "I'm afraid I don't follow at all, Miss Edmond. How can that be if Mrs. Keith went with Rowland to the Inn?"

"It's simple when you know the conversation I overheard Wednesday afternoon. February first," the girl returned. "I came downstairs in the Rowland home about three o'clock and heard Mrs. Rowland on the phone in the living room. She spoke to Mr. Willard, breathlessly and yet so plainly I couldn't help understanding; there was something joyful, almost . . . unholily about her excitement. Curious, I slipped about her excitement. Curious, I slipped into the conservatory where I could listen still better. First, she said, 'My suspicions were right, after all, Harvey; I have proof at last Allen is seeing that woman tonight! You refused to believe it when I insisted all this time she was his mistress, but now you'll have to admit it.' She then answered a question. 'Never mind how I found out; I'll tell you that when you arrive. Just be here with Dorkin—at 9 o'clock at the corner of Jackson and Elder streets.' Then she added, 'He has the audacity to meet her practically in front of my home! Now we won't have to wait for the faked meeting tomorrow night to prove he is faithless; tonight we'll catch him red-handed with his real mistress and have honest grounds for a divorce. And with that she hung up the receiver.'"

She paused, breathless at the vehemence of her own recital.

"So I had to get in touch with Allen and warn him of the trap. Only, I couldn't locate him; I went out and phoned his apartment several times, but in vain. My only hope was to be at the meeting place and if Allen arrived first, warn him and try to stop him. I hired a car, figuring I might need one if any traveling was to be done. At 8:30 I parked near the corner, careful not to be observed; I watched Mrs. Rowland, Mr. Willard and that detective come at twenty to nine and hide nearby. Fifteen minutes later, Mrs. Keith walked up, and at exactly 9 o'clock Allen picked her up."

"Since I could not signal Allen, I followed both cars to wait for a later chance. All the way to the Inn, I trailed behind Mrs. Rowland while she trailed him. At the Inn, I drove ahead and parked on the other side. But while Mr. Willard's crowd delayed until Allen and Mrs. Keith were well settled in their quarters, I acted. I could tell from the new light on the second floor, the location of their room. Without stopping to ask at the desk, I entered and went directly upstairs as if I were

Then I gave Mrs. Keith the key to my machine and Allen ordered her to drive back to the city immediately.

"Even as she had barely a moment to spare. As she stepped into the hall, Mrs. Rowland, her brother and Dorkin were already climbing the stairs. To escape them, she had to slip into an open bathroom several doors down the corridor. Then she waited until everyone rushed into our room—before she sneaked out and ran down to my car. She probably just missed meeting Mr. Keith on the way."

The girl flicked away her cigarette ash and shrugged her shoulders carelessly.

"The rest of the story must be fairly clear from the records of the hearing," she concluded. "Allen and I were well compromised by the interruption; we acted dismayed and guilty, precisely as it had all been planned for the next day. Though I almost spoiled it by laughing at Mrs. Rowland's rage and mortification and Mr. Willard's amazement. During the

confusion, they searched the room, closets and bathroom for Mrs. Keith. Yet they had to carry out the scene, not daring to demand where she was or question the substitution. That would have given away their knowledge of the whole secret and admitted the collusion."

After a moment of deliberation, Rankin said:

"I suppose that covers all the ground, Miss Edmond, except for my original question. Do you think Mr. Keith went to the Inn because he suspected his wife would be there with Rowland?"

Again he sensed in her that quick wariness.

"I'd say it was something like that."

"That's very important," Rankin returned graciously. "You had no reason to shield Mortimer Keith in this business had you?"

The girl looked startled. "Of course not, Mr. Rankin," she answered vehemently.

"You also failed to inform me," Rankin pointed out severely, that on the afternoon of the murder,

Mr. Keith visited the lawyers' offices. He arrived about when you did, 2:35. You couldn't help seeing and recognizing him in the main office, yet you concealed that fact from me."

"Mr. Keith there?" Jill Edmond's attempt at a surprise held a false note. "I swear I didn't know, Mr. Rankin; I neither saw him come in or leave."

At the sudden inspiration that occurred to him at that instant, Rankin shook his head savagely. "Perhaps I can suggest a better reason why you wanted to protect him; you found it profitable to tell him the truth."

The secretary's eyes widened with terror.

"That is called blackmail, Miss Edmond," he went on. "a much graver offense than obstructing justice. You threatened to make public Mrs. Keith's infidelity unless it was made worth your while not to."

"No, no, that isn't what happened at all!" Jill Edmond's alarmed cry interrupted. "I had done him a service he would appreciate; at

the cost of my character, I had saved his wife's honor and him from public disgrace. Surely it wasn't too much for me to expect some . . . reward."

"And in that way, profit at both ends for the same thing," Rankin declared curtly. "I went to see him as soon as I got Allen to admit who he was. And he was perfectly willing to let me have the money."

Abruptly the detective rose, his mouth grim and ominous.

"Miss Edmond," he warned her, "this is your only chance; hold your tongue and be prepared to testify to his knowledge when called to do so."

"Yes, yes, Mr. Rankin," Jill Edmond promised only too fervently. "And thank you; you can depend on me not to breathe a word to anyone."

Rankin's faith in Barbara Keith was destined to receive an even more severe strain that very night when he reached the Central Detective Bureau.

Continued Next Week.

AN . . . Urgent Appeal To Taxpayers Of The Hico County Line Indpt. School District

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL'S FINANCES HAS BEEN GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE, DUE LARGELY TO THE INCREASING AMOUNT OF DELINQUENCIES. THE SITUATION NOW IS THIS: THE TAXES SIMPLY MUST BE PAID IN ORDER TO ASSURE A FULL TERM OF SCHOOL. TEACHERS AND OTHERS HAVE MADE SACRIFICES LONG ENOUGH, AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT COLLECTIONS BE MADE ON ALL SUMS NOW OWING IN BACK TAXES.

At a recent meeting of the board of the Hico County Line Independent School District, it was decided to accept payments on delinquent school taxes WITHOUT PENALTY OR INTEREST until—

OCTOBER 15th, 1935

After that date the full amount of delinquent taxes, plus penalty and interest, will be subject to legal collection through suits, which will add an additional sum in costs.

It is not the intention of the board to work a hardship on anyone, but the matter has come to a point where something has to be done.

BE FAIR--BE PROMPT

Consider the situation in its true light. A great deal of leniency has been shown delinquent taxpayers, and additional time will only work further hardships on them and the school patrons alike. Those who have paid their taxes are entitled to the advantages of a first-class school, which is entirely possible with just and equal assessment and collection of taxes.

By acting at once, you may save the extra costs involved through suits, and at the same time be doing a patriotic service to the schools.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN TODAY—BY ALL MEANS TAKE CARE OF THESE TAXES BEFORE THE DEADLINE

PAY
 DELINQUENT TAXES
 — By —
October 15
 — And —
SAVE
 PENALTY, INTEREST
 AND COSTS

E. H. Persons
 ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
 HICO, TEXAS

Fall is Just Around the Corner

Within a few more days cotton will be open and picking will get underway. There will be a task for every minute of time. Allow us to remind you that the time to get your harvesting equipment ready is now. Delay after you have started picking cotton or gathering corn is both aggravating and expensive. Come in and check over your needs today. We have a complete stock of—

WAGON PAINT — PICK SACKS — SCALE BEAMS
 WAGON HDWE.—WAGON SHEETS—KNEE PADS
 No. 816-6 Wood Cook Stove, High quality Cast.
 Heavy base, only \$14.95

C. L. Lynch Hdwe. Co.

Fall Opening

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 1

MAKING IT WORSE
TO DROP EVERYONE
COMING

HICO

... WHERE EVERYONE
HAS BEEN MAKING
PLEASURE

FREE \$1

JOIN YOUR
AT

Coming as it does at the opening of the Fall Show will attract large crowds of thrifty shoppers who are in need of needed articles at the special low prices offered. Whether you buy anything or not, you are more than your share in the CELEBRATION. But when you have inspected the event you will realize that Dollar Day means DOING IT RIGHT. READ THE ADS ON THIS PAGE—MAKE

DOLLAR DAY SPECIAL

Harry Hudson
Cooking Oil
Gallon Tin
\$1.30

2 PLAIN 1-PIECE DRESSES Cleaned & Pressed
MEN'S SUITS Cleaned and Pressed
—or—1 SUIT and 1 DRESS Cleaned and Pressed **\$1.00**

10 per cent discount on any Suit or Overcoat sold on Wednesday (Dollar Day) only
These Cleaning Prices Are Strictly Cash and Carry — and — All Work Must Be Called For Within One Week From Date of the Sale.

CITY CLEANERS

Bill Hill

Dick Adams

BELL ICE & DAIRY PRODUCTS CO.

Patronize Home Industry
Eat Bell Ice Cream. It is better
Phone 169

25c Value
Dress Shirting
15c Yard

"BROWNS"
Hico Texas

G. M. CARLTON BROS. & CO.

10 yards 12½c value Linanne Cloth
Solid colors, for \$1.00
4 pair men's 35c shorts for \$1.00
8 lb. Carton Lard \$1.00

Cole & Simonton

Gulf Products
Visit a Gulf Station while in town.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

In Hico Under Same Management
Since 1890

Special for 1 Day

Reg. \$1.95 Perma-ments for \$1.50
Make Your Ap-ointment early.
Carmen's Beauty Shop

PETTY'S

Men's Dress Shirts, non wrinkle col-lar for only \$1.00
Fancy Oil Cloth, per yard 19c
Ladies New Fall Felt Hats \$1 and \$1.95
36 inch Dress Prints 10c
Ladies Silk Hose 49c



Jones Motor Co.

Dodge, Plymouths
and Used Cars.
Eastex Gas

RANDALS BROTHERS

Bran, 100 lb. Sack for only 95c

Hico Service Station

GULF PRODUCTS
National Tires
Hi Volt Batteries
Good Used Tires
Tubes and Batteries
G. HOOPER, Operator

"TEAGUE" VARIETY STORE

7-piece green water set, 6 glasses and 1 large pitcher 43c
Heavy Crystal Water Tumblers, res-taurant or home, each 5c
Plain white dinner ware—
Cup and saucer 10c
Dinner Plates, each 10c
Large Oil Lamp, complete with wick and globe 69c

Trade With Merchants Making

Dollar Day

WEDNESDAY

4th

DRINK YOUR WHILE
EVERYTHING AND
MEAT --

HICO

EVERY PROVISION
MADE FOR YOUR
RENT AND PROFIT

50 FREE

OUR FRIENDS HICO

all Sho... g Season, the SEPTEMBER DOLLAR DAY
ers wh... all anticipate their needs and lay in a supply
s offer... for this one day.
e more... an welcome to attend this DOLLAR DAY
pected... offerings of Hico merchants for this big
the DO... ARS IN YOUR POCKETS in more ways than
-MA... OUR PLANS TO BE HERE WEDNESDAY.

MEN'S DRESS FELT HATS—

2 1-4 in. brim, black 95c

MEN'S WORK PANTS—

In blue and gambler stripe at 75c

FAST COLOR PRINTS—

1,000 Yards of new designs, 36 in. 10c per yd.

HOUSE DRESSES—

One lot of new dresses at 49c

BROWN DOMESTIC—

Regular 12c value, special at 9c per yd.

LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS—

Offered at a special price of 25c per dozen

H. & D. HARELIK DRY GOODS COMPANY

BARROW FURNITURE CO.

Folding Ironing Boards, spec. for \$1.25

Sturdy Card Tables, each \$1.25

Try Our U. S. Royal
Tires with a 12-
month guarantee.
Reasonable prices.

We Sell Texaco
Gas and Oils.

Allison Ser. Sta.

Pocket Knives, values \$1 to \$1.50

Special your choice 25c and 50c

CORNER DRUG CO.

SPECIAL ONE DAY ONLY!

Mansfield's Tires—

450x21 4-ply \$5.85

450x20 4-ply \$5.65

550x17 4-ply \$9.25

Compare these with catalogue prices.
A guarantee policy with each tire. Tubes
guaranteed to your satisfaction.

O. D. CUNNINGHAM'S SER. STA.

Make Johnson Barber Shop

First Class Bar-
ber Work Given,
and your business
appreciated.

TRADES DAY SPECIAL

Sept. 4

Pure Granulated in Cloth Bags
SUGAR 10 Lbs. 50c

CAMPBELL'S GROCERY

BARNES & McCULLOUGH

"Everything to Build Anything"

HICO, TEXAS

Puratene

Egg
Mash

100 Lb.
Sack

at

REAL
SPECIAL
PRICE

for
DOLLAR DAY

Bring us Your
POULTRY, EGGS
AND CREAM

HICO POULTRY
& EGG CO.

Dellis Seago, Mgr.

Special For Trades Day Only

We Positively Will Not Offer these Pri-
ces again.

Full size China Cups and Saucers, per
set of 6 only 54c

Heavy Weight Cups and Saucers, set
of 6 only 79c

Odd Saucers, and small plates, extra
Special, each 1c

C. L. LYNCH HARDWARE CO.

Fewell's Shoe Shop

Bring your old
shoes to us and let
us repair them for
school. They will
be like new.



Making This Event Possible

News Of The World Told In Pictures.

Plans Next to Freeze Human when Restore to Life



LOS ANGELES... Dr. Ralph Willard, 32, research chemist, pictured just after he froze to death for three days a monkey which he later restored to life, will have a human being to experiment on next. Stephen Simkhovitch, film writer, has volunteered to become a human icicle in the name of science. The experiments are for the prevention of various dreaded diseases.

Cheers the G.O.P.



PROVIDENCE... Republican state leaders are rallying around Charles R. Risk, (above), bitter foe of the New Deal, returned the victor in a special congressional election early this month.

Sell Shares In Self



PITTSBURGH... Richard Crist, 34, is in the market with shares for sale of himself. He's an artist with ambitions to paint in Mexico. At \$6 per share he promises all buyers a sketch made there, thus financing the trip.

Washington Bride



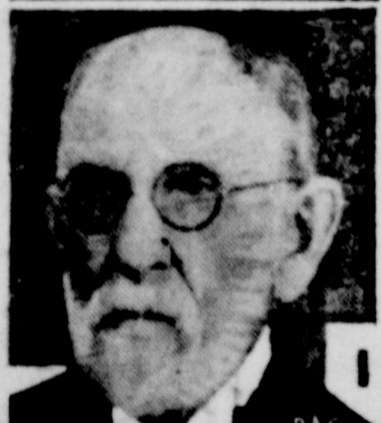
WASHINGTON... Miss Grace Rogers, daughter of the Secretary of Commerce, is now the bride of Dr. Frank Bohn of New York, the wedding here being a social event of the month.

Candy Comback at 81



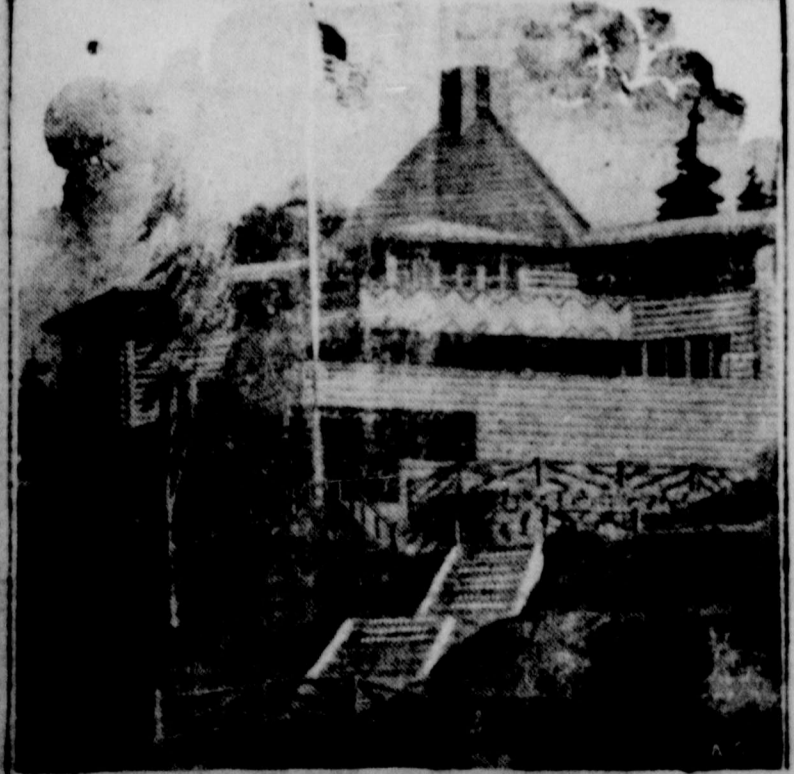
NEW YORK... James M. Washburne, 81, (above) is back in business in a big way. His large candy fortune wiped out by the depression, Washburne started street peddling again, producing a sweetmeat which attracted financial backing and gives him another chance.

Stork Aid at 100



BETHEL, O... Dr. Wm. E. Thompson (above), had a lot of help this month in celebrating his 100th birthday, scores of the more than 1800 babies he helped bring in the world during his long years of practice, thronging the town for the meal.

Prize \$10,000 4-H Club House



CHICAGO... To the 4-H club members of St. Louis county, Minnesota, will go the \$10,000 Club house (above), which is to be dedicated on August 29 at Edenburg, near Mankato, Minn. It was awarded the Minnesota 4-H Clubs in a national contest for exhibiting highest in efficiency of their programs, contributing to rural and business life of the region.

The Family of the Late Beloved Will Rogers



NEW YORK... Though widely separated when word arrived that the husband and father, Will Rogers, had been killed in an airplane crash with Wiley Post in Alaska, the members of the Rogers family met here to start the trip home to Hollywood. Photo shows, left to right, Will Rogers, Jr., Mrs. Rogers, her son James and daughter Mary, as they boarded a train for the West.

Maybe Not This Year—



NEW YORK... Tennis experts say "maybe not this year, but..." Miss Kay Stammers (above), British net star, will bear watching. She has the proudest record of having defeated both Helen Wills Moody and Helen Jacobs, U. S. aces, in singles matches this season, the former in England and the latter here.

Bachelor Jam Maker



ELGIN, ILL... David Hipple (above), 42, being a bachelor, has jam-making as a hobby. He entered some of his jam at the county fair here and carried off first prize over 100 women competitors.

King of 3-Year Olds



GOSHEN, N. Y... Race driver, Sep Palin (above), with Greyhound, 3 year old winner of the Hambletonian, America's greatest harness classic, is the happiest horseman in the land today. The colt, from E. J. Baker's stables, stamped himself the greatest trotter since Peter Manning, winning in straight heat over a field of nine; times, 2:02 1/2 and 2:02 1/4 for a purse of \$33,221.

Free Ride to Europe



NEW YORK... Because her "stowaway" was not intentional, Joan Bailey, 14, of N. Y. (above), was made the pet of the liner Normandie and was returned to her parents here with more presents from passengers than she could

Keeps Her Promise



CHICAGO... Two years ago, in 1933, Mrs. Adena Miller Rich (above), wife of a Chicago stock broker, promised the late Jane Addams that some day she would accept the post as President of Hull House. Mrs. Rich has just been elected to the chair, vacated by the death of Miss Addams.

Defiant Utility Chief



WASHINGTON... Howard C. Hopson (above), long sought utility man and power behind the Associated Gas and Electric System, photographed as he finally appeared before the congressional lobby investigation.

Hat and Bag Forecast Football Season Ahead



NEW YORK... Jean Parker's new Fall suit with the military air, is topped by a smart little gray hat that gives a suggestion of a helmet, which hints strongly of the favorite Fall sport. The bag verifies the hint. It is designed in football shape and properly initialed.

Farm Girl Speeder



FULTON, Mo... Not content with having broken the world's 100-meter record for women with a time of 11.6 seconds, Miss Helen Stephens, 17, Fulton, farm girl, thinks she can lower the mark below 11 seconds.

Mrs. Wiley Post



OKLAHOMA CITY... Mrs. Wiley Post, wife of the late world girdling flyer who crashed to his death with Will Rogers in Alaska, is expected to receive the \$25,000 which Congress voted should be paid for the plane "Winnie Mae" for the Smithsonian Institute. Also she will have a \$250 per month annuity.

Brown Bomber's Favorite



DETROIT... Joe Louis, brown bomber of the heavyweights, isn't at all worried about boxing critic's concern "whether or not he can take it." His reply to such queries is to point to the above photo, his favorite, caught during his two minute knockout of King Levinsoy at Chicago.

"Look West", says H. H.



WASHINGTON... "Look to the West for a Republican presidential candidate in 1936," was the informal suggestion made by former President Hoover to party leaders while on his trip East, it became known here this week.

ON THE GASOLINE CIRCUIT — by A. B. Chapin



The Tennis Tops in American Championships



NEW YORK... Above are pictured the tennis headliners who will hold the spotlight in the United National Tennis championships at Forest Hills. Left, is Fred Perry, British ace and present men's U. S. single champion, who will play in defense of his crown. Right, top; Mrs. Helen Wills Moody, former U. S. champion and now holder of the British title. Below, Helen Jacobs, U. S. Women's single champion. If these two reach the finals the match promises to be a tennis epic in point of interest.

