

F.H.A.
VALENTINE DANCE
After The Game
Tonight In The
Cafeteria

NOR'EASTER

NORtheast HIGH SCHOOL

Vol. 8, No. 12

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Friday, February 16, 1962

VIKINGS
vs.
CLEARWATER
8:00 P.M. Tonight
At Northeast Gym



Bill Beck, sports editor of the St. Petersburg Times presents the Thom McAn award to Dick Coddling while his parents Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Coddling look on.

Scholar-Athlete Richard Coddling Presented Thom McAn Award For 1962

Outstanding and versatile Richard Coddling is the proud recipient of the tenth Thom McAn football award. This award was presented to him in the assembly Wednesday, January 31, 1962, by Times' Sports Editor, Bill Beck. The award was then explained by Buddy Rogers, Thom McAn representative. In winning the award Richard received his own football shoe preserved in bronze.

This award is presented annually to the football player in St. Petersburg who is outstanding both on the field and in his academic work.

When one views all of Richard's many outside activities and honors here at Northeast and other schools which he has attended, it is not difficult to understand why Richard was the unanimous choice for the award. He is not only an outstanding football player and co-captain of the team, but also president of the senior class. In football he was elected to the Times All City and All County teams and received an honorable mention in

the All-Western Conference. Dick was elected as the best leader of the team, also.

Outstanding scholastically, Richard has received a semester grade of A in every subject since the ninth grade and is a member of the National Honor Society. Richard is also a member of the Letterman's Club and the Wheel Club.

At Lealman Junior High Richard received the American Legion Award of Merit and was chosen the American Legion's most outstanding boy.

In his junior year Richard received the Sons of the American Revolution American Award. Also, he attended Boys' State in Tallahassee and was elected State Senator.

It was a wise choice when Richard was named for this award, for he is one of the most outstanding, deserving and versatile Vikings of Northeast. Each and every student salutes Richard Coddling for his great achievement; winning the Thom McAn award. He makes one proud to be a Viking.

"Curtain Up" Includes Comedy - Duets - Ballet

VARIETY SHOW

Stage positions! Lights! Curtain Up! These are a few of the calls that will be heard February 22 and 23 as the Northeast music department presents its spectacular musical festival entitled "Curtain Up." The band and drama departments will assist the music department in this festival.

Thursday afternoon, February 22, there will be a matinee for students only. The price for this showing is fifty cents. The evening performance, February 23, is for the general public and the tickets are one dollar.

There will be comedy numbers, musical duets, solos and dances. Jean Preece is featured doing a classical ballet. Soloists for the festival include Kathy DeKoven, Donna Marous, Allan Farabee, and Buddy Wortendyke.

A show band furnishing interlude music and consisting of Viking members will be present at the show also.

Singing popular and musical comedy numbers will be the Gondollers, the main event of the evening. This group is composed of twelve boys and twelve girls. These include sopranos—Margie Kindel and Kathy DeKoven, altos—Betty Jean Fruth, Nancy McKenzie, Pam Spencer and Carol Reynolds, tenors—Tom Tomason, and Rick Viet, basses—Buddy

Wortendyke, Allan Thomas, Cliff Benham and Harold Sinclair. This musical group is accompanied by Carol Sackett.

The Gondollers will open with the number "Everything's Coming Up Roses." Other popular tunes include "Me and My Shadow," "Medley from Carousel," "Begin the Beguine," and "Medley from Show Boat."

This certainly is one musical showing that won't want to be missed, so tell your friends and relatives, and everyone to come see the elaborate musical production of "Curtain Up."

Elizabeth Cutler Wins Betty Crocker Contest

Elizabeth Cutler is winner in our school in the 1962 Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow. She achieved the highest score in the examination on homemaking knowledge and attitudes taken by senior girls December 5. She becomes eligible along with winners in other state high schools, for the title of State Homemaker of Tomorrow.

The girl named State Homemaker of Tomorrow is provided a \$1,500 scholarship by General Mills, sponsor of the program. The state runner-up will receive a \$500 scholarship.

In addition, the State Homemaker of Tomorrow and her school adviser will join with other state winners in an expense-paid educational tour of New York City, Washington, D.C., and Colonial Williamsburg, Va. At the latter, the 1962 All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow will be named.

The national winner will have her scholarship raised to \$5,000 with second, third and fourth place winners being granted scholarships of \$4,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000, respectively.

The knowledge and attitude test, prepared and scored by Science Research Associates, Chicago, is the basis for selection of local and state winners with personal observation and interviews serving as factors in national judging.

The 1962 Betty Crocker Search reached another all-time high in enrollment with 406,132 girls in 12,874 schools participating. The program now is in its eighth year. By the end of this year, more than two and a half million girls will have participated and scholarship awards will have totaled more than three-quarters of a million dollars.

Danny Thomas Tips Hat To Teens

by Carol Day

"I am sick and tired of hearing you referred to as delinquents. I want all America to tip its hat to the teenager!"

Thus spoke Danny Thomas, champion of the young people and strong believer in the teenage set. At the Teens for Leukemia rally held at the Municipal Pier on February 5, Mr. Thomas stressed repeatedly his wholehearted belief that the young people of today are maligned when the term delinquent is used as a popular adjective to describe them. One of the strongest examples he used to substantiate his belief was that the teenagers of America had raised twice as much money for A.L.S.A.C. as had ever been raised by any single adult campaign.

The drive, which was held Sunday, February 11, was designed to raise money for the support of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. The hospital is the result of a vow made by Mr. Thomas when he was impoverished by lack of work and disheartened because of the apparent failure in his chosen career. He made a vow that he would build a shrine to St. Jude, patron saint of hopeless causes, if his career would be blessed with success. To fulfill his promise, not only did he give generously of his own money, but for ten years he staged numerous benefit shows and rallies. St. Jude's will cost approximately five million dollars after all the bills have been paid. It is the only hospital in the world concentrating solely on the research and treatment of children's diseases.

On Sunday, February 11, teen-

agers from all over St. Petersburg rang doorbells and asked the question, "Would you like to help fight leukemia?" Each marching teen was instructed to call at twenty-five homes during the two hour period between two and four P.M. Over ninety percent of the funds collected by the teenagers will be spent directly on research and care for patients. The small remaining portion will cover literature and administrative costs because virtually all of the work done for A.L.S.A.C. is by volunteers.

Mr. Thomas was introduced by disc jockeys "Bachelor" Bob Collins and Roy Nelson at the beginning of the one-half hour broadcast on TV station WSUN. St. Petersburg's mayor Herman Goldner presented Danny Thomas with the key to the city in the form of a tie pin and made him an honorary citizen of St. Petersburg. Also presented to Mr. Thomas was an honorary veto power given to him by state senator William Young.

At the end of the rally, the enthusiastic audience joined Mr. Thomas in the singing of "God Bless America." Following the rally, Mr. Thomas left for Tampa and Miami where he launched similar drives. By the end of the year there will have been one hundred similar rallies and drives throughout the United States for the two-fold purpose of raising the necessary funds to maintain St. Jude's Hospital and the equally important purpose of proving to the adults of this country that the teenagers of America, through their own efforts, deserve a big tip of the hat.

See - Hear - Tom Helm Well Known Author Feb. 26, 8:00 P.M.

See and hear a real, live author Monday evening, February 26, at 8:00 P.M. in the NeHi Library. The Library Club is presenting Tom Helm, well known local author of TREASURE HUNTING AROUND THE WORLD and SHARK. The Club cordially invites all interested faculty members and students to come and meet Mr. Helm, and enjoy an informal evening of book talk.

Mr. Helm grew up loving the outdoors which may be the origin of his adventurous life. His teen years were spent in Richmond, Virginia and his college years at Birmingham Southern College. In addition to writing about treasure hunts, he has worked as a radio newscaster, newspaper reporter and forest ranger.

World War II found Tom Helm at Pearl Harbor serving in the U.S. Navy. Here he shot down a Japanese Zero with a Springfield rifle for which he received a citation from Admiral Nimitz.

Tom Helm and his wife are currently living in Duneedin, Florida, where he is working hard on his next book. Along with "book writing" he has found time to write for such sporting magazines as, FIELD AND STREAM, SPORTS AFIELD, OUTDOOR LIFE, and ARGOSY. During his twenty-six hour day, he also serves as an educational audiovisual consultant for Bell and Howell Company.

Anyone who has dreamed of finding buried treasures will enjoy reading about his adventures as he writes TREASURE HUNTING AROUND THE WORLD. His second book, SHARK, may send you swimming in pools for life! It tells about the shark's origin and history, and describes the different species. It also tells about shark repellents and preventatives. Both of these exciting books are in our library. Why not read one, and then come meet the author, February 26 at 8:00 P.M.



Versatile Sherri Hucks Leads Junior Staffers

This year the editor of the junior edition of the Nor'easter is the girl boasting much newspaper experience. Sherri Hucks is not only the managing editor of the Nor'easter, but also, the school reporter for the St. Petersburg Independent.

Sherri has had an opportunity to see many of the pleasure spots of the world. During her life she has lived in New Orleans, San Diego, Guam, Hawaii, and the Marshall Islands. She loves to travel and states that the most interesting thing she has seen in her travels is Waikiki Beach.

She is also a girl of diversified interests. Besides working on the paper she is in the band, Quill and Scroll, and Future Homemakers of America. In her leisure time Sherri enjoys bowling, tennis, swimming, and writing.

Sherri hopes to attend the University of Florida and become a newspaper feature writer.

When asked what she thought about the junior edition she answered "I believe that this year the junior edition has an excellent staff and will prove to be an outstanding newspaper."

Vikes Chat With Danny Thomas . . .



Nancy Russell and Carol Day interview Danny Thomas concerning Leukemia Drive.

AD SPECIALS

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PAGE 3

LITTEN'S MUSIC CENTER
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PAGE 3

"ATTENTION PLEASE" — BE COURTEOUS

A teacher begins a sentence and before he utters a few words his feet has gone up several steps. This is not due to a wide imper-

OPEN SESAME CAREER INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY

Are you looking for open doors in career opportunities? Your North Library has an excellent report of vocational books and

Viking Society Whirls On In-Service Days

Hillsborough State Park was the scene for the Viking Society's annual picnic held on the paper. How about that B.R.?

A LETTER TO SENIORS

The young men and women of our town seem to be wondering how they can help their seniors. We first started at Northside.

WANT TO BE A LAWYER

WANT TO BE A LAWYER? WANT TO BE A DOCTOR? SO YOU WANT TO BE A LAWYER?

KING OF SCHOOL SPIRIT REIGNS AT VIKING BASKETBALL GAMES

King "School Spirit" has reigned supreme and his effect has been quite evident in the past weeks.

MAN ON THE STREET

The new game which has swept Florida is the "new" game by Checker City. Opinions concerning this game are varied and

EDITOR'S COMMENT

"As far as I'm concerned, the twist in our lives and fortunes. Those who are trying to lead it are not being

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Many Vike Students From Foreign Lands

Northeast features a friendly, foreign flavor this year. The Vikings have extended their enrollment to several students who hail from foreign countries.

Many students remember Luis Getta, Helsinki, our first exchange student, started the influx of these new Americans to the school. Students welcomed Getta to join in all classes and extra-curricular activities. Heading from Denmark, Getta's smiling face and artistic talent are a needed addition to Northeast.

Many students remember Luis Getta who came to the United States from Cuba. Through Luis, recently moved, with his family from Puerto Rico, his letters to Northeast have been a source of help and encouragement. Luis speaks in his native tongue and is being benefited from hearing the language spoken. Thirteen year old Luis ran to his class at Northeast because he didn't want to take a chance of being tardy. With his glasses that were almost large enough to hide his shining eyes, Luis did good-by to his "foreign" school.

Jose Ferranico came to Florida from Havana, Cuba. While in school, Jose attended a Catholic Center. Jose stated that it was difficult for him to get used to his different frequent flyer. Jose's frequent flyer was Jose. When the airplane took off Jose felt the wonderful feeling of freedom which is often taken for granted in the United States. Since his arrival at Northeast everything has been enjoyable for Jose. This is a great country. Please defend it against Communism.

Not only does Northeast have students of foreign birth but many Vikings have resided in other countries. A good example is Connie Pyle, a member of the Homecoming Court who has lived in many interesting places due to her father being in the service. Along with her sister, Kay, she says Hawaii is the most interesting and most memorable spot in which she has lived. While in Hawaii she enjoyed the warm weather, water sports, and learning to do the "Hula." The years the Pyles spent outside the United States were certainly helpful in solidifying their respect for the diversified manner and customs of the world's peoples.

IS SPACE TRAVEL POSSIBLE? Space Age Has Arrived Teenagers To Exploit It

Now that the Space Age has fully arrived and people have quit worrying about whether or not man will venture heaven in his quest for space exploration, the average person is cultivating a genuine interest in the present space program.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration has mapped out this calendar for outer space, an orbiting astronomical observatory, a manned orbital flight, and a moon landing. Although the teenagers have no definite place in the space program as of now, they anxiously wait out each rocket launch.



Landing the beaches of Cocoa, Florida during the recent John Glenn orbit countdown were thousands of spectators, many of them high school or college students. The sandy beach became a haven for parties as campfires were built and transistor radios blared out music.

One objective they had all gathered there with one objective in mind—to see for just a few seconds the first manned rocket ship to go into orbit. The rocket which disappears as it rises slowly as it seems to a tremendous excitement, then disappears almost as quickly as it appeared. When the space attempt was discontinued, there was all around disappointment. Many who had spent the night on the chilly beach grumbled as they packed their belongings but they likely returned when the countdown resumed.

There will be a tremendous cost to the space program in the next few years. It is estimated to cost between twenty and forty billion dollars.

By the 1970's the United States is expected to have placed a man on the moon. It is possible that the first mission will be to Mars.

What do scientists expect to find on the moon? Some scientists believe that the moon is rich with gold, silver and diamonds and other precious stones. There are some living organisms on the moon and some eccentric beliefs are that there are "moon men."

Today's teenagers are fortunate and interested in what is going on in space. They are not just spectators but they are participants in the space age.

The space age has had its genesis in October of 1907 when the Russians launched Sputnik I into the universe. Some were extremely surprised and others frightened of what lay ahead for coming generations.

Sputnik exploration, like anything else, produced numerous skeptics—people who are uncertain about the future.

Some believe that Virgil Ginnison is sandwiched in between Alan Shepard and John Glenn, that he will not be remembered as well. But his feat is looked on with much importance by the public as other space pioneers. His flight was another space success by the United States.

The teenager of today will have unprecedented opportunities of space travel. It has caught on like a fever among the younger set. The goal of many high schoolers is to be a nuclear physicist, a technician, or an astronaut. Teenagers look up to the present day space leaders with admiration knowing that someday the task will be theirs.

Space toys such as satellites, rockets and space stations have become a part of the young man's life.

Today's teenagers are fortunate and interested in what is going on in space. They are not just spectators but they are participants in the space age.

VIKE SWIMMERS START SEASON THE BUTTERFLY

More dives to complete his schedule. The scoring is based on view, inward, and twisting. Variations of front and back and 1 1/2, full twist, 1 1/2, and many more.

Each diver is awarded points for his dive. The scoring is based on view, inward, and twisting. Variations of front and back and 1 1/2, full twist, 1 1/2, and many more.

The highest number of points is awarded first place and five points for his team. Barbara Willis and her sister Barbara heads the girls with a 1.16. These teams are away on their back but they're never resting as the practice laps and them in shape.

Headmistress are next in line with an average time of 1:22 for the boys and a 1:28 for the girls. Agin & Cooper, Chris, holds the record of 1:24 and Ed Green for the boys with a 1:17.

Events that will be seen at Northeast were the 50 yd freestyle, 100 yd butterfly, 200 yd freestyle, 100 yd backstroke, 100 yd breaststroke, 100 yd freestyle, and the 200 yd freestyle relay.

The 50 yd freestyle consists of two laps of the pool using any one stroke. The relay is usually the butterfly, freestyle, and backstroke. At the end of the first lap, a flip turn is executed by the butterfly swimmers to cut down their time. The average time for a high school swimmer is approximately 27 for the boys and 30 for the girls while the Northeast record is 24.2 by Ross Welch and 27.7 by Diane Shea for the girls.

The second event is the 100 yd butterfly. Four grueling lengths of the pool make up this exciting race. Coach Cooper, with a time of 1:13, holds the record for the girls, and John O'Neill, 1:10, leads the boys.

The 200 yd freestyle follows with Barbara Cooper taking honors with a 2:21.5, while Jim Gaver holds the boys' record of 2:04.4. The backstroke record is held by a junior, John Cooper, with a 1:10.

Each swimmer is competing for himself and his school. A first place in a single event adds one point to the school while second and third places add three and one point respectively. A competitor is allowed to enter two events in a meet, and he can get one point for each event.

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VIKE BASKETBALLERS Face Tough Schedule

On February 16, the Clearwater Vikings will come to Northeast to engage our varsity in the Western Conference game. Six foot size such as Dan Davidson, the Vikings' ace, should be eliminated by a tough Viking defense as we will see another victory.

On February 17, the Vikings will have a chance for revenge when they play Bishop Barry at Barry. The Barry's leading scorer, John Butz, will be the man for the Vikings to watch says Coach Benjamin.

The following game, against St. Peter's Green Devils, will be played in the Vikings' gym. The date of this hotly contested Western Conference match is February 20. The Vikings will try to keep last Monday's record. The Vikings' leading scorer points a game.

The final game of the season will be against the tough Hillsboro Vikings. The Vikings will travel to Hillsboro for this Western Conference match.

After our home basketball game on February 16, the Vikings will travel to Hillsboro for this Western Conference match. The Vikings will travel to Hillsboro for this Western Conference match.

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50 YD. FREESTYLE

200 YD. FREESTYLE

100 YD. BUTTERFLY

100 YD. BACKSTROKE

100 YD. BREASTSTROKE

200 YD. FREESTYLE RELAY

VIKING SWIM SQUAD HAS GREAT POTENTIAL

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VIKING SWIM SQUAD HAS GREAT POTENTIAL

100 YD. FREESTYLE

50 YD. FREESTYLE

200 YD. FREESTYLE

100 YD. BUTTERFLY

100 YD. BACKSTROKE

100 YD. BREASTSTROKE

200 YD. FREESTYLE RELAY

VIKING SWIM SQUAD HAS GREAT POTENTIAL

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100 YD. FREESTYLE

50 YD. FREESTYLE

200 YD. FREESTYLE

100 YD. BUTTERFLY

100 YD. BACKSTROKE

100 YD. BREASTSTROKE

200 YD. FREESTYLE RELAY

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100 YD. BUTTERFLY

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Ruth Hartman

New History Teacher Water Sport Minded

Ruth Hartman, teaching American history, is a new addition to the social studies department of Northeast High.

Mrs. Hartman resides at 1411 24th Avenue South with her husband and two sons. The boys, incidentally, are students at St. Pete High. She attended high school in Athens, Ohio, and later it was in Athens she attended Ohio University, receiving both her A.B. and M.A. degrees.

Since Mrs. Hartman has taught physical education at Boca Ciega, she enjoys many sports. Her favorites are water sports which include fishing, skiing, boating, swimming and others.



Armando Alonso

New Vike Teacher Hails From Cuba

Second, third, and fourth year Spanish students will have the advantage of having a teacher who is a native Cuban. Under Senior Alonso's meticulous teaching, students will be learning the correct pronunciation of Spanish words and gaining a native fluency of the language.

Senior Alonso was born in Santa Clara, L.V., Cuba. In high school he attained a bachelor degree in arts and science. In the United States this degree would enable the receiver to go on to college. It is the equivalent of our high school diploma. At the University of Havana Senior Alonso received his doctor of law and philosophy and letters degrees. While in Cuba Senior Alonso was a teacher and lawyer.

Senior Alonso is married and presently his nephew is living with the family. The nephew, Jose M. Alonso, is a Senior at Northeast. When you greet him, remember he likes to be called Joe!

During his leisure time, he enjoys reading history and literature along with playing bridge. Senior Alonso declares that, "It is wonderful to be in this country of freedom and democracy. The community of St. Petersburg has been very kind to my wife and me."

Vikings extend a friendly hand to this new faculty member.



William Monroe

popular William Monroe. In his senior year at NeHi, Mr. Monroe was editor of the Viking Log, an annual that was in the first class in National competition that year; a member of Quill and Scroll; and the recipient of a journalism award.

After graduating from Northeast in 1956, Mr. Monroe attended the University of Florida from which he received his B.A. degree in education. Now he has returned to NeHi to teach varied social studies courses such as American history, world geography, and American government. A bachelor, Mr. Monroe finds pleasure in sports and scouting. Welcome back, Mr. Monroe.

Last of the Wine

by Ron Wray

Deke Johnson lit a cigaret as he looked over the pits at Martin Hill. Grey-painted fuel tanks were canvas-shrouded in the far corner beside the feed funnels and five-gallon cans with "Shell" stenciled on them by the company. On one wall the tools stood stiff and fine-polished in their numbered racks, ready to hand as if the grand prix were to be held within an hour.

In a way, it was. The grandstands were empty as they fronted on the track. Tier on tier, the concrete seats loomed above the concrete track and surrounded it with their grey bulk. Johnson stared at the stands, shivered, and flicked the cigaret away. He lit another.

Edgily, Deke walked to his Yamaha-Enfield conversion and, grasping the short handlebars that jutted from the fork-shrouds, pushed it onto the course where the black-white-and-chrome bike contrasted with concrete.

DEKE GETS READY

Deke zipped the wrists of his racing jacket, the calves of his breeches, the shiny boots, and lastly the breast of the jacket. He slid a Bell Continental half-helmet on his head and clipped the plexiglass visor that covered his face to the fibreglass helmet. He tensed the straps.

Now, in the dimming twilight, he switched the ignition on and, forcing the selector into low with the clutch in, pushed the 'cycle seven paces, then dumped the clutch.

The two-fifty c.c. engine fired, coughing power through its twin chrome-plated expansion chambers, and accelerated away as Johnson hit the saddle. The tachometer climbed to five-thousand rpm's and torque came in like a nine-pound hammer slugging Deke against the padded back-rest on the Bates competition saddle. Ten-thousand rpm's signaled a shift to second gear which, in turn was left when the tach' registered ten grand.

Third gear lasted until the Esses, a series of s shaped left-rights that spilled out a hundred yards from the hairpin that crawled left onto the gently-curved back-stretch. Johnson wound one-hundred-thirty-two in the bank.

INDIANAPOLIS CORNER

Indianapolis Corner was next, a fast, banked left-hander that ended in a sudden drop and ride that could kill an unwary racer. Beyond the drop-rise sat a reverse-cambered right-left onto the front straight.

That was the track, Martin Hill Motor-raceway, one point eight miles of it. In thirty-two years of

operation, twenty-nine drivers had been claimed by the concrete.

Deke Johnson's second lap was a second and a half faster than his first and the third two seconds faster. The fourth lap brought the time down another second.

As the time crept downward and the tachometer soared higher and the brakes caught later Deke Johnson began to change. It had been four years since his last race and he had grown rusty even though he built the sleek Yamaha-Enfields that dominated the two-fifty class. He tested them but never competed until today on a windswept, deserted course where he raced against his ancient, implacable foe.

Johnson clocked one-thirty-eight on the back stretch on the seventh lap and one-forty on the eighth circuit.

Engine screaming fourteen-thousand rpm's Johnson fled down the front straight past the lonely pits.

YEARS AGO

Years ago Johnson had had friends but they had grown alien as Deke wrestled with Death on race tracks across the world. At Solitude Circuit he had broken both legs and his arms shattered at the Isle of Man when the brakes of a Manx Norton faded to nothing with the speedometer pegged on one-sixty-five.

There had been women but Deke had never married; what would his wife do when they dragged him home, blood spattering the carpets and torn flesh settling to rest? What would she do when the phone rang and one of the drivers tried to tell her, to plead with her not to hate the Game?

But there had been women and Deke, in his own way, without care for or understanding of the complex thing he commanded had taken them one by one and cast the half-life remains aside as Johnson climbed to the top of the heap.

WAS LONG FALL

It was a long fall when he stopped but Deke Johnson had lit on his booted feet and fought back by learning all there was to know about engines and building the finest two-fifty racer in history, a forty-eight horsepower beast harnessed by a five-speed constant-

mesh transmission and bearing the name "Yamaha-Enfield."

The Yamaha YD-Sport twin cylinder engine, one of the finest two-strokes ever made, mated with the Royal Enfield one-fifty frame, a light, full-sprung carrier. Together, molded by the hands of Deke Johnson, they emerged as one-hundred-thirty pounds of purely functional racing machine that stormed and burned.

Now it was Deke Johnson on his own creation racing in a deserted arena against the Dark One on the enemy's terms. It was a matter of time, nothing more. In time, Deke would slip and he would lose the Game.

THIRTY-FIRST LAP

The thirty-first lap began and Deke held off the brakes until he was almost in the Esses, then dropped to second gear and slammed both binders almost to lock. He swerved and banked through the turns and down geared to first for the hairpin. Then he worked up to fifth gear and one-hundred forty coming toward Indianapolis.

One-twenty-five miles per hour through Indy.

Toward the drop and rise that had taken five men before.

At one-hundred-thirty-five miles per hour, Deke Johnson overshot the drop, caught halfway up the rise and flew off the course sideways.

The sleek black machine bounded back to the concrete rolling over and over, sending Deke sliding down the course with blood leaving a rich, uncaring wake behind his broken form.

Deke looked at the grey sky and saw the sudden flash to the west; he tried to smile. Deke Johnson coughed, counted the tenth mushroom-cloud he had seen that day, and lost the Game to Death.

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