RICHARD T. THOMPSON Managing Editor

Serving the rich Northwest Wayns County Suburban market with a group of affiliated newspapers in Livania, Plymouth, Farmington, Radford, Nankin and Garden

A Strong Probe Needed

A little less than two years ago, Jessica Mitford attacked American burial practices as

The book, despite its long tenure on the sales charts, won her no popularity with undertakers and pravediggers. And, today, there's no attempt by The Observer to Judge the general drop of Livonia's scandarfinden Brookfale Cemetery, Miss Mitford's harsh words ring true.

For the three adjectives which she employs

"huge, macabre and expensive"—can be applied to any one of a score of events at Brookdale brought out in recent weeks.

This cemelery's questionable practices reach into the lives of a huge number of people—relatives and friends of the 6,000 persons buried in unmarked, hard-to-find, mislabeled plots.

in unmarked, nare-to-find, mislabelled plots. The personal tragedies are uncountifile. Ob-sorver reporters paid two brief visits; to the cemelery this week. During one visit, they found a family which had journeyed of Livonia with flowers for the grave of a dead five-year-old son. Sloppy record keeping and: contra-dictory maps stymied their search for the sou's graye for an hour.

graye for an hour.

In another visit, reporters stood helplessly by while a grieved widow, accompanied by representatives of a committee of 300 relatives of persons buried in Brookdale, found the body

of her husband buried under another man's tombitions. The carnival atmosphere and general poor tasts at the exhumation bordered on the measure.

The expense borne by these and other victims (mistakes are the rule, not the exception-levely are more than emotional, however. They continued the more than the more properly of the continued of the more properties. The more properties are costs to grant the more properties are costs to grant and up to \$360,000.

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The statement from a recent New Jersey Supreme Court decision that a cemelery, even if privately award, is a public burial ground "whose operation for purposes of profit is contrary to junific policy" has apparently not sunk in yet with the owners of Brookdale.

Brookdale's roots go back to 1937. For the past seven years a well-paid receiver has been "in charge" of the operation. Brookdale has no fulltime caretaker and a president who has no power.

How will the complications end?

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Many of us are pinning our hopes on the Senate investigating team headed by Senator Ray Dzenderd which starts hearings today in Lansing. Some surprising revelations have been promised on all sides. Our hope is for a final, binding agreement among all parties for the improvement and the perpetual care of Brook-indicated and the properties of Brooked Complex of the Complex of t

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THE HARVEST OF NEGLECT



MRS. SUE JONES, widow of the man whose body was exhumed at Brookdale Croons, a friend Crometery Thursday, is completed by the Complete of the Computer of the Computer Compute

THE READER SPEAKS UP:

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Observing the Scene.

By MYRA CHANDLER

Distaff politicians are making the scene this week in what has been the liveliest contest ever staged by the ladies of any party, any time, since the power struggle between Young Queen Bess and Ann Boleyn.

Unlike that 14th Century donneybrook there was no bloodshed visible this week at the Jack Tar in Lansing when Beatrice Zilly, leading the ultra-conservatives, fought Ruth Hobbs, carrying the banner of the Romney-moderates of the Republican Party, for the presidency of the Michigan Federation of Republican Women.

That doesn't mean, however, there wasn't plenty of action. Both camps displayed real energy in trying to out-maneuver each other in legal-parliamentary procedure leading up to the final polling of the delegation.

Midnight caucuses, corridor meetings, countless phone calls and trial polling kept the lady-politicos wide awake until the small hours of the morning Monday and

Press deadline came before the final polling. How-ever this observer would say candidate Ruth Hobbs, the moderates' choice, will be the new president.

With the Romneys and State Republican Chairman Elly Petersen in her corner Mrs. Hobbs was well insulated against the attacks of the opposition, supported on the scene by Chairman of the Fighing 14th District Richard Durant, the local Barry Goldwater.

Despite their political differences the two women seem to have much in common. They are both feminine in appearance, soft-spoken and have outstanding records for civic and political achievement. Both stated that regardless of the outcome they will continue to work for political unity in the Republican Party.