

# Deaths BRIGHT DIAMONDS

by Lionel Mosher

## A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS XXVIII

When I turned in at the cemetery gate for the second time that day it was almost dark and there was no sun to help me find my way. The rain had turned to snow. I parked my car under a great oak tree and shut off the motor. The wind had risen and I heard it keening mournfully in the branches overhead. I walked slowly away from my car, feeling the ground with my feet and staring against that curtain of night and snow.

Suddenly I saw the monument ahead of me, dimly white in the gathering darkness.

Then I felt the ground, soft and oozy under my feet. I looked down. I was standing on the fresh-turned earth of Phineas Hudson's grave. Quickly I stepped off and turned toward the monument again when something caught my eye. I turned back and looked more closely.

The grave looked odd. It seemed curiously untidy. As a matter of fact, it was not completely filled in.

There was a little mound of dirt beside the grave. I stared at that mound and I began to think about it. A couple of swings of the shovel would have spread the earth evenly, if loosely, over the grave.

I leaned down, moved my hand across the dirt, and felt a hollow in the soil. A hollow, scooped-out, unnatural and unmistakable. At first, I merely looked at it curiously. But the more I looked at it, the odder I felt. Then I had a horrible conviction. It swept over me like the cold wind of a sea turn. The sweat broke out on my forehead. And all the while that horrid question kept hammering in my brain. Who had been digging in Phineas Hudson's new-made grave?

I should have liked the courage to run. Instead I went up to the monument, with the ivory elephant in my hand.

A monstrosity, I thought, as I looked at the polished granite sphere supported by four granite pillars. Within must be the recess where I was to place the elephant. I put my hand over the edge. The cold, wet snow brushed my flesh. I put the elephant in and moved him about indecisively.

My fingers closed on a small solidity. And I was at once horrified and exalted. I drew it out—a small leather bag—and loosened the draw-string with numb fingers. I put in my hand, and even with all my ignorance of precious stones I knew it held one of the Ostermann diamonds! And in the other hand four million and some hundreds of thousands of dollars.

My fingers began to tremble. It's quite a common thing with diamonds. They do things to you. But this was more than that. This was sin, heartache, and death. I had to hurry. Panic seized me. I spread the maw of the little leather bag. And I dropped the diamond. But not in the bag. It slid crazily past the opening and I felt

it strike my ankle and bounce off.

Carefully I got down on my hands and knees, and I began to move my palms swiftly, but lightly over the earth. I picked up three pebbles. My trousers got soggy and my hands ached with cold. And I was still looking when I saw the lights of a car turning in at the cemetery gate.

It stopped, then came swiftly along the curving drive. I debated withdrawing behind the manumant. But an irrational sense of thrift kept me there on my knees rooting in the soft, oozy earth for that diamond.

The car stopped behind mine. I rested my hands on my thighs and saw the door open. Then a voice, high and clear like a gunshot in that quiet place.

"Nick!"

It was Brenda Temple. "For God's sake, come over here," I shouted, all my tension curiously spilling away.

She came across the lots, calm, unhurried, deliberate.

"Never mind how you got here," I said, "I dropped a diamond. Help me find it."

"Pat called me. She was worried about you. I thought—" Her voice trailed off. She leaned down and stared close into my face.

"Did you say a diamond, son?" "As big as a robin's egg," I said. "Great day," she said. "So you've found them."

She leaned down, picked up something, and held it close for inspection.

"Is this what you're looking for?"

It was. "Give me that," I said. "I'm sentimental about these things," she said. "Let me hold it a moment."

I grabbed her wrist. She fended off my hand with cool amusement.

"Nick! Don't be precipitate." "Big words for a little girl."

## No Black Market?



Declaring that most talk about the black market "sheer rumor, gossip, hoax and without foundation," Thomas I. Emerson, deputy price administrator in charge of enforcement, is shown above as he testified before the Senate Food Investigating Committee. His statement was almost coincidental with the resignation, en masse, of the War Rationing Board of Westfield, N. J., because "Too many people are willing to pay prices over the ceiling to obtain what they want."

"Look!" I pointed at Phineas Hudson's grave—at a little mound of loose soil. Her fine brows drew down in concentration. She emitted a soft whistle. She smiled up at me, passed back the stone, and took my arm.

"Isn't it a bit early for planting?"

"It all depends upon what you're planting," I replied.

"Come."

We stepped carefully around the dirt. Brenda shuddered a bit and said:

"How horribly fascinating! Who d'you think did it?"

I didn't answer that question. I never even had time to ponder it. Brenda had turned for a last curious look at the disturbed grave. I heard her gasp sharply

and I turned. And I had my answer.

(To Be Continued)

## GOOD CAUSE BENEFITS

Northumberland, Pa. (UP)—An old, unpaid dentist bill netted the Red Cross drive here \$10. The local postmaster received the money with a note from a "repentant sinner" stating that the sender, as a poor working girl,

didn't pay a dentist in Northumberland what she owed him. Since she had forgotten the name of the dentist, she requested that the money be given to the Red Cross.

## LUCKY BREAK

New Albany, Ind. (UP)—This was quick work, to say the least! When Mrs. Ruby Davis found her iron missing, she went to find a replacement. The storekeeper

brought one out—the only one he had—and Mrs. Davis recognized it as hers. He described the man who had brought it in and the latter was arrested.

## SMOKING HABIT IRKED

Toledo, O. (UP)—Mrs. Elizabeth J. Savage sought a divorce from her husband, William, because he "frequently fell asleep" while smoking cigars. But Judge Paul

W. Alexander granted the decree on grounds of gross neglect and awarded Mrs. Savage custody of the couple's two children.

## SUPER FREIGHT ENGINES

Portland, Me. (UP)—Twelve new superlocomotives on the Boston & Maine railroad hauled more freight than old-type engines during one month at a net saving of \$80,000.

## ERICKSON'S SPECIALS

**Same LOW PRICES Same HIGH QUALITY**  
FOR FRIDAY—SATURDAY

Seedless Raisins 2 lb. pkg. 25c

Hoody Peanut Butter Crushed or Reg. 2 lb. jar 49c

Yellow Corn Meal No. 10 bag 49c

Homemade Pickles, Libby's ..... No. 2 1/2 jar 31c

Deuxe Plum Preserves, Libby's ..... 21 oz. jar 33c

Libby's Apple Butter ..... 303 jar 19c

Dodge Chow Chow—Mustard Pickles..... pt. jar 19c

Apple Juice, Hood River ..... quart 25c

Karo Golden Syrup ..... 1 1/2 lb. jar 15c

Karo Syrup (Golden) ..... 5 lb. jar 41c

Mince Meat, Bulk ..... 2 lbs. 29c

Green Tomato Slices ..... No. 2 1/2 jar 25c



Leg O' Lamb  
A Springtime Treat  
Grade A, 7 points  
lb. 39c

Pork Chops ..... lb. 38c  
Choice Cuts, 12 Points Lb.

Veal Steak ..... lb. 29c  
Finest Quality, 4 Points

Wieners ..... lb. 37c  
Those Good Kind, 5 Points

Primost Cheese ..... lb. 23c  
Point Free!

Spiced Herring ..... lb. 35c  
Very Delicious, Point Free

Fresh Oysters ..... pint 67c  
In Bulk, Point Free

**Softasilk**  
Cake Flour  
1 lb. pkg. 26c

**ERICKSON'S FOOD MARKET**  
FREE DELIVERY PHONES 660 & 661

- Pimientos ..... 7 oz. jar 25c
- Fancy Tomato Juice ..... No. 5 can 24c
- Cream Corn, Fancy No. 2 ..... 2 cans 29c
- Fountain Cut Beans ..... No. 2 can 25c
- Walla Walla Green Limas. . . . . No. 2 can 23c
- Libby's Mixed Vegetables. . . . . No. 2 can 19c
- Solid Pack Tomatoes. . . . . No. 2 1/2 can 19c
- Whole Kernel Corn Niblets, H-D 2 cans 29c
- Sliced or Diced Beets, No. 2. . . . . 2 cans 25c
- Kadota Figs, Libby's. . . . . No. 2 1/2 can 33c
- Grapefruit Juice ..... No. 2 can 15c
- Orange Juice ..... No. 2 can 20c
- Blended Juice ..... No. 2 can 18c
- Sliced Peaches ..... No. 1 tall 15c
- Bartlett Pears ..... No. 2 1/2 can 27c
- Cocoa Malt ..... 1-lb. can 41c
- Borden's Choc. Malted Milk, 1-lb. can 29c
- Pudding Mix ..... pkg. 5c  
Clinton—Chocolate—Butterscotch—Vanilla
- Soft Shell Walnuts ..... lb. 43c
- Maraschino Cherries ..... 8 oz. bottle 27c

Tomato Sauce can 5c

Tuna Fish Ocean Chief, grated . . can 24c  
Solid White Meat . . . can 43c

Tang Salad Dressing  
quart 39c

PET MILK  
3 cans 29c

HEMO  
1 Lb. Jar 57c

- Amazo Gloss Starch ..... 2 pkgs. 13c
- Purex—or Clorox ..... 1/2 gallon 25c
- Pen Champ Self Polishing Wax (1 quart free) 1 qt. 98c
- Johnson's Floor Cleaner ..... pt. can 29c
- Church's Grape Juice ..... pint 17c
- Leather Gloves ..... pair 98c
- Pop—Washing Powder ..... 24 oz. pkg. 15c
- Concord Grape Preserve ..... 21 oz. jar 29c

Post Toasties, 2 giant size 25c  
Grapenuts ..... pkg. 14c  
Satisfaction Cereal pkg. 26c

Calo Dog Food case of 48 cans 1.49  
Regular 10c Size—4 Cans 25c

**SANDWICHES STAY FRESH WITH TANG**

**NEW DRESS FOR BABY!**

**IT'S NOT NEW! CLOROX MAKES IT SNOWY-WHITE, SANITARY, TOO!**

BABIES' and children's linens look lovely as new when freshly laundered the Clorox way. For Clorox gently bleaches white cottons, linens showy-white (brightens fast colors), removes stains, scorch, mildew. It also deodorizes, disinfects. And Clorox is extra-gentle, yet thorough . . . reduces need for hard rubbing that wears out fabrics before their time. Ask for Clorox.

In Bathrooms, use Clorox regularly to disinfect, deodorize and remove stains from washbasins, bathtubs, toilets, floors. Simply follow directions on Clorox label.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE BLEACH AND HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANT

**CLOROX**  
FREE FROM CAUSTIC  
*Disinfects*  
DEODORIZES—BLEACHES—REMOVES STAINS

In Kitchens, Clorox in routine cleaning makes tile, enamel, porcelain, wood, linoleum surfaces sanitary.

**When it's CLOROX-CLEAN... it's Hygienically Clean!**

BUY WAR BONDS

- Asparagus Fresh 2 lbs. 25c
- Radishes, bun. 5c
- ORANGES Sweet Sunkist 2 doz. 45c
- Lettuce, head 9c
- GRAPEFRUIT Large Arizona doz. 55c
- Spinach lb. 10c Fresh
- Pineapple ea. 39c Medium Size
- DAFFODILS King Alfred 2 doz. 55c

**PALMOLIVE**

- Palmolive, reg. size, 3 bars 20c
- Palmolive, bath size, 2 bars 19c
- Cashmere Bouquet, 3 bars 27c
- Super-Suds . . . . . 1 lb. pkg. 23c
- Peets Granulated, 1 lb. pk. 26c
- Peets Mechanic . . . . . bar 7c