

It's Death, My Darling!

By AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG

(AP Newsfeature)

Chapter 14

Late that afternoon, Mr. Duval, the lawyer, drove out to offer his condolences over Claude's death, and to announce that under terms of Colonel Dumont's will, Claude's share in the estate would now revert to Uncle Raoul. He and Uncle Raoul were closeted together for a long time in the office.

In the meantime, Aunt Minerva furnished some slight diversion. Uncle Raoul phoned the sheriff and obtained permission for her to leave; so when Mr. Duval drove back to New Orleans, she went with him.

All during supper that evening it had become supper again with the departure of Aunt Minerva—Uncle Raoul had remained silent and preoccupied, as though something was weighing on his mind.

"There's a certain matter that I want to have cleared up," he began. "I want to know how my father died."

A half audible murmur of surprise ran around the table.

Uncle Jeff was the first to speak. "But I thought you did know Raoul," he said. "Your father died of a heart attack."

"So I've been told," Uncle Raoul said grimly. "But who was with him when he died? Were you, Jeff?"

"No," Cousin Jeff answered. "I rode over a day or so before to see him, but that was the last."

"Were you with him, Lewis?"

"Not when he died," Lewis Hays replied. "He'd sent me to the upper plantation the day before to see something about the cotton crop. I didn't get back until after his death. But Miss Delphine was here for her yearly visit, and Claude had arrived the preceding morning."

"That made them all sit up and take notice. It was plain from the expressions on their faces that most of them had not known before that Claude had been present at the time of his grandfather's death."

"Claude?" Uncle Raoul repeated. "What was he doing here?"

"I think Colonel Dumont had sent for him."

Henri spoke unexpectedly. "He sent for me, too," he announced. "But I was away on a business trip at the time, and the letter didn't reach me until after it was too late."

Uncle Raoul turned to him at once.

"Do you remember what he said in the letter?" he asked eagerly.

"He merely said he wanted to see me," Henri answered. "He asked me to come out here on the eighteenth."

"The same day he died!" Lee exclaimed involuntarily.

"Precisely," he said. "And he also sent for one other person—his lawyer. Duval told me when he was here today that Father called him

up on the seventeenth, and asked him to come out the next day on a matter of urgent business. He said Father told him he had just found out something he should have known long ago, and wanted to discuss it with him. What I want to know is this: Was it mere coincidence that my father should have sent for his eldest and his youngest grandsons and his lawyer, and then have died before to any of them?"

"Except the eldest," Beau put in meaningfully.

"Raoul, what are you driving at?" Cousin Jeff demanded. "Are you trying to insinuate—?"

"I'm insinuating nothing," Uncle Raoul interrupted him. "I'm merely trying to find out."

Everybody looked half expectantly at everybody else, but no one spoke.

"All right," Uncle Raoul said, rising. "That is all." He turned and left the room.

The rest of us drifted out, too; not in a body, but in small groups. Lewis Hays attempted to attach himself to Pick; but she passed him without a glance, slipping her hand through Beau's arm instead. I had noticed that there had been a coolness between them earlier in the day, and had wondered with the corner of my mind that wasn't crowded with other things what had been the cause of it.

Amedee guided me into the larger drawing room. Glancing up at him, I saw that his attention had wandered.

"What's the matter?" I asked. He roused himself with an effort.

"It's what Uncle Raoul told us back there," he said moodily. "What was it Grandpere wanted to see Claude and Henri and Duval about before he died?"

"Why wonder about Henri any more than about the other two?" I inquired.

"Because," he replied, "his sending for the other two was understandable. Duval was his lawyer and Claude the eldest of the family in direct line. But Henri is the youngest. Why single him out when the rest of the family wasn't included?"

"It didn't sound logical, I had to admit."

"At least there's one thing to be thankful for," he went on. "Henri never got the letter until it was too late."

"Why, what do you mean?" I asked.

"Grandpere made a discovery that he wanted to pass on to those three. But he died before he could mention it to any of them, with the possible exception of Claude. And now Claude's dead, too."

"No, Dede!" I exclaimed in a sort of panic. "Not that! Claude died of a heart attack, the same as your grandfather did."

"Exactly," he said. "The same as Grandpere did. We may as well face it, Peter. It's beginning to look as though Grandpere and Claude were both murdered; and what's more, I believe that Uncle Raoul suspects it, too."

(To Be Continued)



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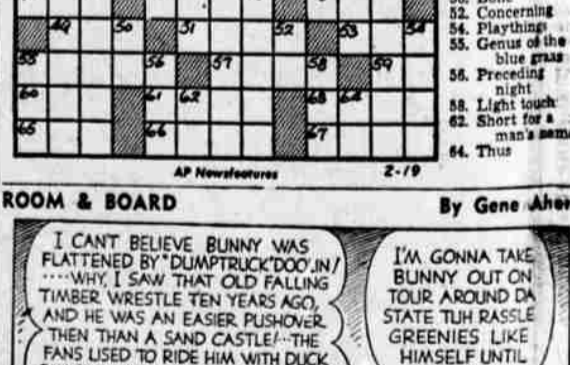
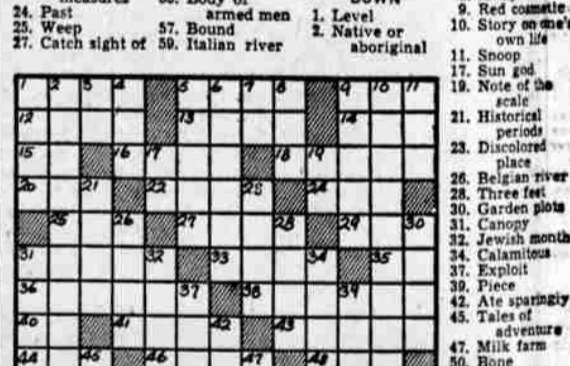
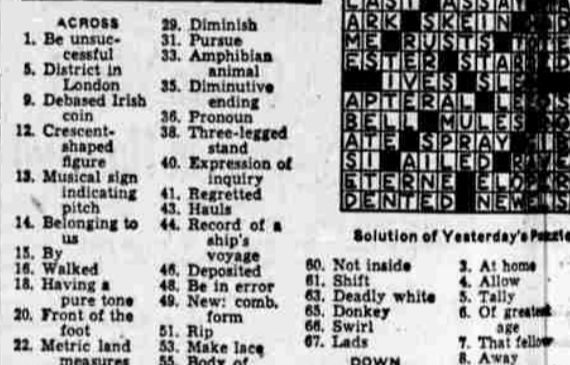
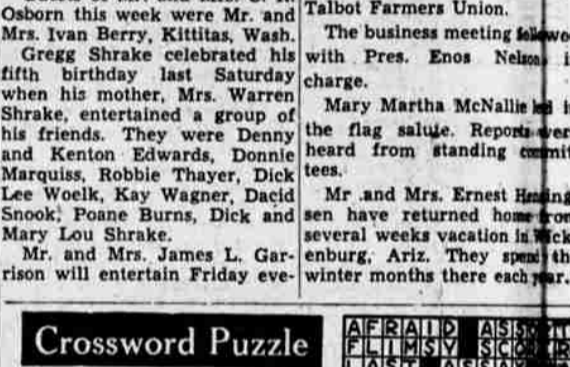
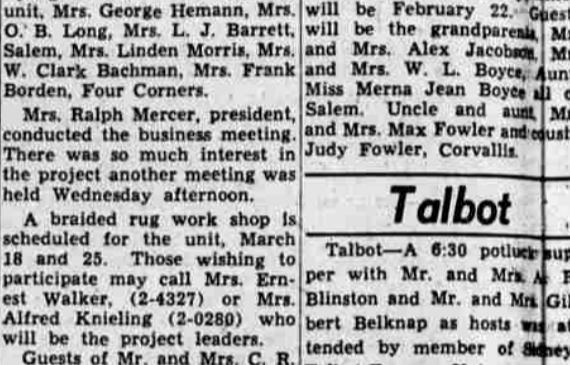
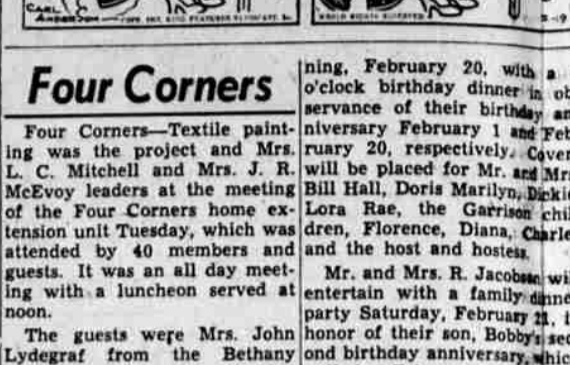
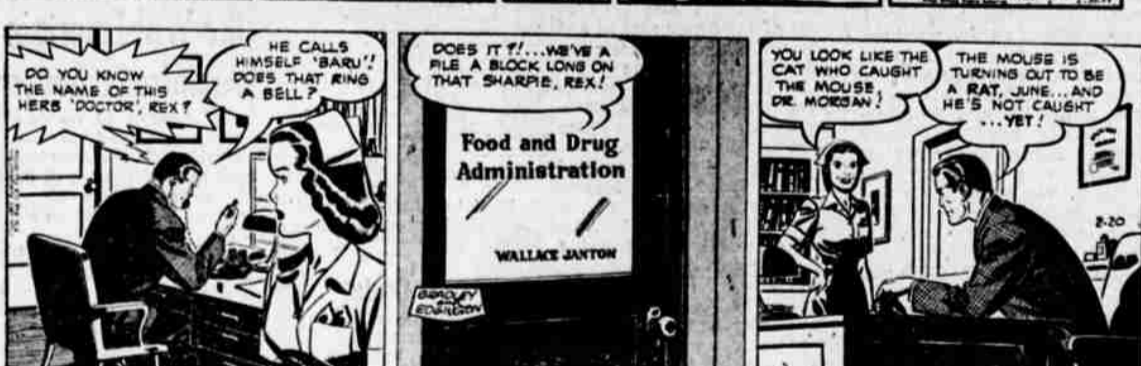


2608
SIZES
10 - 20

477
Pastel Knit, Pearl Trimmed: Summer dress-up sweater is knitted of soft, fleecy wool in pale aqua, violet, daffodil yellow, pure white or dusty pink and glimmered by beaded in a flower and leaf design of pale pink and white pearls, tiny seed pearls and silver thread. It makes a wonderfully beautiful sweater to wear over silk shantung afternoon or dinner-and-dancing frock. You'll want it, too, for resort and vacation evening wear; knitting is simple, actual size leaf and flower motifs given in pattern, all beading instructions, knitting instructions for sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16.

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Four Corners

Four Corners—Textile painting was the project and Mrs. L. C. Mitchell and Mrs. J. R. McEvoy leaders at the meeting of the Four Corners home extension unit Tuesday, which was attended by 40 members and guests. It was an all day meeting with a luncheon served at noon.

The guests were Mrs. John Lydegraf from the Bethany unit, Mrs. George Hemann, Mrs. O. B. Long, Mrs. L. J. Barrett, Mrs. Salem, Mrs. Linden Morris, Mrs. W. Clark Bachman, Mrs. Frank Borden, Four Corners.

Mrs. Ralph Mercer, president, conducted the business meeting. There was so much interest in the project another meeting was held Wednesday afternoon.

A braided rug work shop is scheduled for the unit, March 18 and 25. Those wishing to participate may call Mrs. Ernest Walker, (2-4327) or Mrs. Alfred Knieling (2-0280) who will be the project leaders.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Osborn this week were Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Berry, Kittitas, Wash. Gregg Shrake celebrated his fifth birthday last Saturday with his mother, Mrs. Warren Shrake, entertained a group of his friends. They were Denny and Kenton Edwards, Donnie Marquis, Robbie Thayer, Dick Lee, Wadik, Kay Wagner, David Snook, Poane Burns, Dick and Mary Lou Shrake.

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Garrison will entertain Friday eve-

ning, February 20, with a 7 o'clock birthday dinner in observance of their birthday anniversary February 1 and February 20, respectively. Covers will be placed for Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hall, Doris Marilyn, Dickie, Lora Rae, the Garrison children, Florence, Diana, Charlet and the host and hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Jacobson will entertain with a family dinner party Saturday, February 21, in honor of their son, Bobby's second birthday anniversary, which will be February 22. Guests will be the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Jacobson, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Boyce, Aunt, Miss Merna Jean Boyce all of Salem. Uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Max Fowler and cousin Judy Fowler, Corvallis.

Talbot

Talbot—A 6:30 potluck supper with Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Blinston and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Belknap as hosts was attended by member of Talbot Farmers Union.

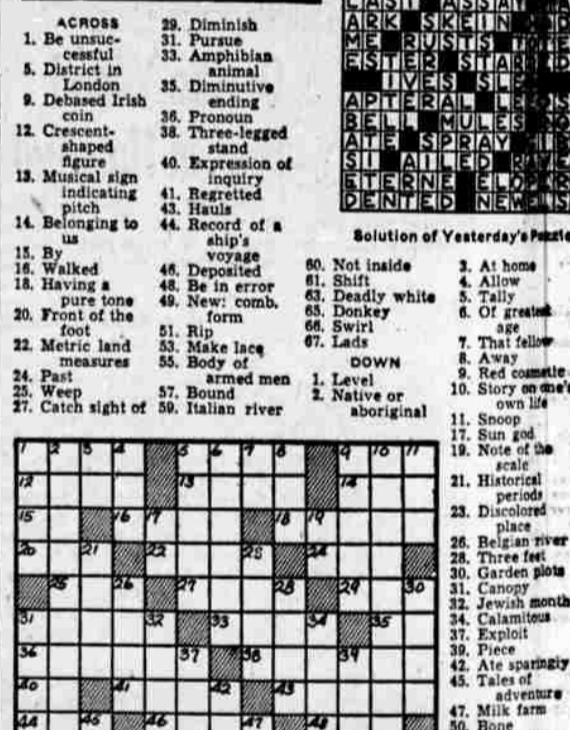
The business meeting followed with Pres. Enos Nelson in charge.

Mary Martha McNallis led in the flag salute. Reports were heard from standing committees.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hangesen have returned home from several weeks vacation in Wickensburg, Ariz. They spent the winter months there each year.

Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
- Be unsuccessful
 - District in London
 - Deluded Irish coin
 - Crescent-shaped figure
 - Musical sign indicating pitch
 - Belonging to us
 - Walked
 - Having a pure tone
 - Front of the foot
 - Metric land measures
 - Past
 - Wasp
 - Catch sight of
 - Diminish
 - Puruse
 - Amphibian animal
 - Diminutive ending
 - Pronoun
 - Three-legged stand
 - Expression of inquiry
 - Regretted
 - Hauls
 - Record of a ship's voyage
 - Deposited
 - Be in error
 - New comb form
 - Rip
 - Make lace
 - Body of armed men
 - Bound
 - Italian river
 - Not inside
 - Shift
 - Deadly white
 - Donkey
 - Swirl
 - Lads
 - Level
 - Native or aboriginal
 - At home
 - Allow
 - Tally
 - Of treatise
 - age
 - That follow
 - Away
 - Red comate
 - Story on one's own life
 - Snoop
 - Sun god
 - Note of the place
 - Historical periods
 - Discolored
 - Belgian river
 - Three feet
 - Garden plot
 - Canopy
 - Jewish month
 - Calamitous
 - Exploit
 - Piece
 - Ate sparingly
 - Tales of adventure
 - Milk farm
 - Bone
 - Concerning
 - Playground
 - Genus of the blue grass
 - Preceding night
 - Light touch
 - Short for a man's name
 - Thus



AP Newsfeatures 2-19

ROOM & BOARD



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WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

iodized or plain