

It's Death, My Darling!

By AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG
(AP Newsfeatures)

CHAPTER 23

Around noon, the sheriff returned. He was accompanied this time by several watchful-eyed, silent men.

"I don't know whether to hope they'll be successful or not," Cousin Jeff remarked soberly as we watched them go. "If they're not, it'll mean he may still be alive. But—" He stopped as he realized that Pick had followed the rest of us out onto the gallery.

"I want him brought home," Lewis Hays went over to her and put his arm around her neck. "Don't give up hope, dear," he said. "No news is good news, they say. And so long as we don't know for certain..."

She neither yielded to nor resisted his encircling arm.

"But I do know, Lewis!" she said emotionlessly. "I think I've known from the beginning. Father is dead."

Bobby shuddered.

"It's all so—so horrible!" she exclaimed. "It's as if something had set out to destroy the whole family. Something supernatural, like Aunt Delphine said."

I thought that this was a cozy remark to make to three members of that family; but I left Henri and Cousin Jeff to deal with it, and turned to Amedee.

"Speaking of Aunt Delphine," I began, lowering my voice. "Don't you think we ought to make another attempt to find out where she got the sword day before yesterday? It might give us a clue as to what happened to Uncle Raoul."

"I was just thinking about that," he replied, "and I believe I've got an idea. Come along and we'll try it out."

We found Aunt Delphine in her room.

"Tante, Peter and I want you to do something for us," Amedee began, taking her hands in his in order to hold her attention. "Will you try?"

She looked up at him fondly.

"He won't hurt you now, Dede," she said, "because I promised not to tell. Peter heard me promise."

Amedee glanced at me.

"I'll explain later," I whispered to Amedee. "But now we'd better try to find out what she knows about the sword."

Aunt Delphine caught the last two words.

"Yes, cherie, the sword," she said gravely. "You should have given it to Dede, as I told you to. Perhaps then he wouldn't have come for Lee."

"She did give it to me, Tante," Amedee put in. "But that's what we want to ask you about. Where did you find it?"

She looked uncomprehending at first, and I was afraid for a minute that she wasn't going to be able to remember. Then her expression cleared.

"Oh, yes," she said brightly. "You want to know where I got it. I got

it from Raoul. He was out there with them."

When Aunt Delphine said either "They" or "Them" with a capital letter in her voice, there was little doubt whom she was talking about. So we let that part pass.

"Can you take us to the place?" Amedee asked.

"Mais certainement." She rose with the quick energy that seemed so at variance with her frail appearance. "Come, mes enfants."

She led us down the stairs and out of the house.

"If she's merely leading us out on the road," Amedee observed, "it isn't going to mean anything. Henri and Beau and I were over this ground the morning Uncle Raoul disappeared."

Just then we came to a sort of bridge path, that branched off from the main drive. Aunt Delphine turned in it.

"Where does this lead?" I inquired.

"To the paddock and the stables," Amedee replied. "We came this way, too." Then he stopped suddenly. "But it never occurred to us to see whether any of the horses were missing!"

However, Aunt Delphine didn't stop at the entrance to the stables. Instead, she continued along the path where it skirted the fenced-in green expanse of paddock, and disappeared into a miniature woodland of hemlock and scrub pine beyond. Suddenly Amedee stopped. "There was an odd expression on his face."

"Peter, you'd better go back," he said in a voice that matched the expression. "I think I know where she's taking us."

"But—" I began to protest, and then I glimpsed something through the trees. It was a square white building, and set in the side facing us was a door of the elaborate, iron grillework for which Louisiana smiths were duly famous seventy-five to a hundred years ago.

"Oh!" I gasped.

"Wait here," Amedee commanded, and went the rest of the distance to the mausoleum alone.

I saw him run up to the iron door, cast one glance through the open part of the grillework, then turn and come quickly to where Aunt Delphine and I waited.

"Is he there?" I heard myself ask, and hardly recognized my own voice.

"Yes," he answered. His voice sounded as unnatural as mine had done. "Peter, take Aunt Delphine and go back to the house. Then send Henri or Cousin Jeff to find the sheriff!"

(To Be Continued)

Monmouth

Monmouth — M. L. Sugden, treasurer of the Oregon Society of Crippled Children and Adults for Polk county, and Mrs. A. E. Fitzgerald, Monmouth chairman are assisting in the annual Easter Seal sale which will be held March 5 to April 5. Funds from the sale of these seals is used for assistance to aid persons who cannot qualify for assistance from other agencies and operation of a childrens hospital at Eugene.

Mrs. Percy Lamb was reelected to the executive board of the Oregon Farmers Union at state convention in Salem. Mrs. Lamb has served a two-year term on the board and is president of the Polk county union.

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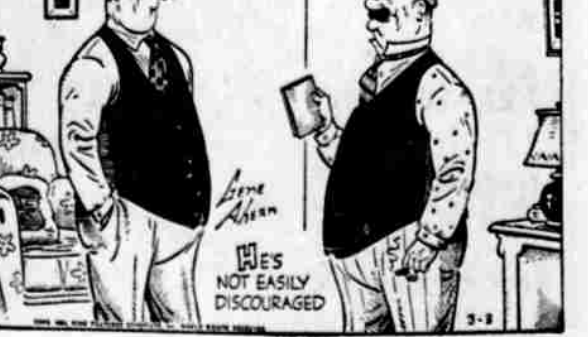
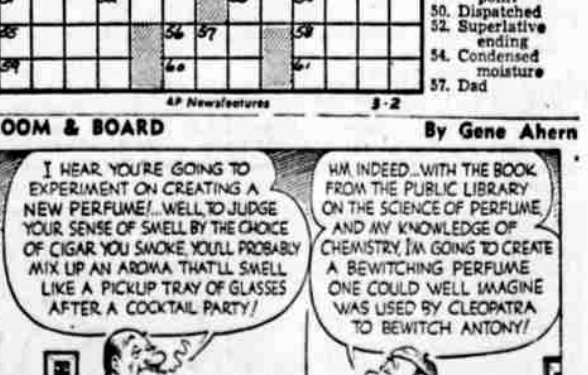
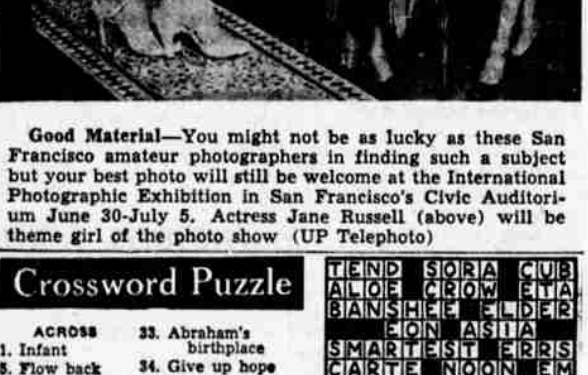
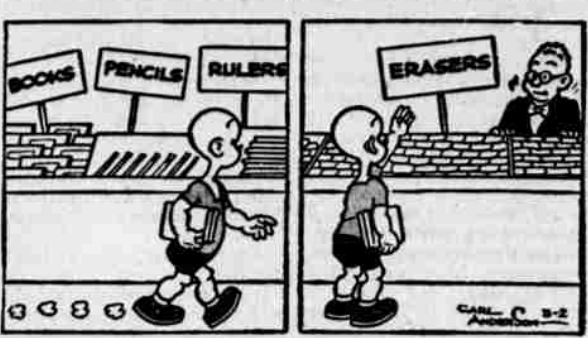
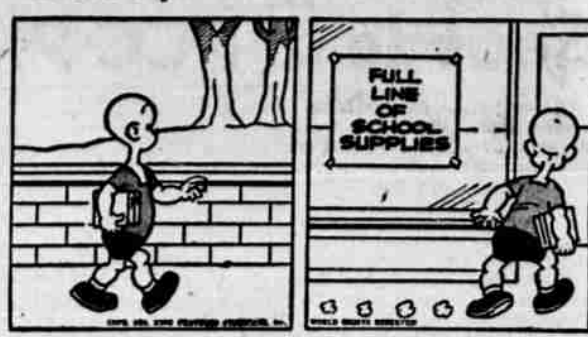
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BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



Good Material—You might not be as lucky as these San Francisco amateur photographers in finding such a subject but your best photo will still be welcome at the International Photographic Exhibition in San Francisco's Civic Auditorium June 30-July 5. Actress Jane Russell (above) will be theme girl of the photo show (UP Telephoto)

Crossword Puzzle

1. Infant	23. Abraham's	33. SORIAL	43. CUB
2. Flow back	24. Give up hope	34. ALOE	44. GROW
3. Hobbies	25. Type of railway	35. SHEFF	45. ELDER
4. Astringent salt	26. Colloquialism	36. BANS	46. FLEET
5. Correlative of neither	27. Donated	37. ELDER	47. BONA
6. Ancient region in Asia	28. Everlasting	38. CART	48. NOON
7. Peruse again	29. Metric land measure	39. ALA	49. LAMA
8. Line to fashion	30. Pronoun	40. LA	50. USER
9. Always	31. Rowing implement	41. ERST	51. SEDIMENT
10. Tulle silk fabric	32. Absolute	42. EAST	52. ASP
11. Behold	33. Aeriform fluid	43. LETHE	53. OTHELLO
12. Heraldry	34. Having least moisture	44. AGO	54. TONE
13. Anarchistic	35. Sober	45. DON	55. SHAD
14. Myself	36. Units	46. DOWN	56. ARTICLE
15. Takes up again	37. Quick to learn	47. 2. Opposite of awesher	57. 8. Distant
16. Hurry	38. English school	48. 3. Small donkeys	58. 9. Ascends
	39. Repose	49. 4. Uncle Scotch herb	59. 10. Take the chief meal
	40. Oriental commander	50. 5. Tolerates	60. 11. Seasoning
	41. Cried	51. 6. Exclamation used to frighten	61. 12. Whiff
			62. 13. Have regard for
			63. 14. More discourteous
			64. 15. Floor covering
			65. 16. Chess pieces
			66. 17. Aromatic beverage
			67. 18. Building addition
			68. 19. Witnesses
			69. 20. Changes partially
			70. 21. Contradict
			71. 22. Oil of rose petals
			72. 23. Scent
			73. 24. English musical composer
			74. 25. You and me
			75. 26. Note of the scale
			76. 27. On the highest point
			77. 28. Dispatched
			78. 29. Superlative ending
			79. 30. Condensed moisture
			80. 31. Dad

ROOM & BOARD

By Gene Ahern



HE'S NOT EASILY DISCOURAGED