

# It's Death, My Darling!

By AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG

(AP Newsfeature)

Chapter 27

"Peter, I—I've got to release you from your promise to marry me."

I answered as casually as I could, although I was feeling anything but casual inside. "I appreciate the noble gesture, Dede. I said, 'But I'm not having any thanks.'"

And then without any warning I was laughing. But it wasn't from a misdirected sense of humor. It was from sheer relief, because I had just discovered a fallacy in Beau's logic.

My fiance stared at me in alarm, then he rushed over to me and began to shake me. "Peter, please don't have hysterics!" he begged.

"Beau's theory is all wrong, because it isn't logical," he demanded.

"I mean that it isn't logical according to other things we know about your grandfather," I replied.

"First," I began, "consider the terms of your grandfather's will. He left his land to his male descendants with the stipulation that upon their deaths, it was to be passed on to their male descendants. Would he have done that if he had believed there was hereditary insanity in the family, and wanted the line to die out?"

"No," Amedee admitted, "but he must have drawn up that will before he suspected his mental condition. Probably that was why he sent for Duval the day before he died. He wanted to change that part."

But I was ready for that. "I don't believe it," I declared.

"Remember," he said to Duval that he had just found out something he should have known long ago. Now if he had been convinced that he was going insane, he would have said that he had just verified something he had suspected for some time. His choice of words shows that the thing he had found out was something he had not suspected.

"But we can feel pretty safe in assuming that the thing, whatever it was, had something to do with his fear that he might be losing his mind. So let's try to decide, if we can, who must have given him these ideas in the first place. His visit to the ear specialist shows that his first thought was that something might be wrong with his ears. But upon being assured that nothing was, he then began to fear that his trouble might be mental, and so he went to the psychiatrist. But when the psychiatrist reported his reactions normal, he must have become convinced that his supposed auditory hallucinations were not hallucinations at all, but that some one was deliberately leading him to believe that they were.

"But isn't that in itself proof of the persecution illusion?" Amedee asked.

"No," I answered, "although something he must have said probably

led Dr. Brenneman to think that such a condition might exist. As for what he wrote on that case card, the question mark shows that it was merely a suggested possibility to be proved or disproved later. But as it happened, your grandfather died before this could be done.

Amedee was frowning in his effort to follow my rather sketchy argument.

"You mean that Grandpere may actually have been the victim of some kind of persecution?" he asked uncertainly.

"Not persecution exactly," I replied, trying to put into words the vague thing that I sensed. "But your grandfather may have stumbled upon something that someone else didn't want him to know about; and so this other person tried to convince him that the thing, whatever it was, existed only in his own imagination."

"If I only dared believe that!" Amedee exclaimed with fervor.

"You've got to believe it, because it's the truth," I declared. "And here's another thing. Beau believes that Lee and Uncle Raoul committed suicide because they'd found out about this supposed insanity in the family. But how could they have? He didn't get the idea himself until after he'd been to New Orleans and talked with Mr. Duval and the psychiatrist."

"That's so," he admitted.

Amedee rose, and began slowly to pace the floor.

"I wonder," I said, thinking aloud, "whether it's possible that the sheriff could have been half right, after all. That is, right about Uncle Raoul, but wrong about Lee."

Amedee nodded his pacing.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"The sheriff thinks Uncle Raoul's death was murder, but—" In his excitement, he nearly dropped his cigarette. "Peter, you don't believe..."

"Yes, Dede," I answered. "I believe that Uncle Raoul and Lee were both murdered. And what's more, I'm beginning to suspect that Claude and your grandfather may have been, too."

(To Be Continued)

## Grand Island

Grand Island — Miss Delores Finnicum, senior at Pacific university, Forest Grove, and three college mates were Sunday dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Finnicum.

Mrs. George Sargeant, 90, a guest at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sargeant, is making recovery from her recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McKee of Perrydale were Sunday dinner guests of her sister, Mrs. Susie Douglas and Curtis.

Mrs. Susie Douglas and son, Crutis, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Douglas at Portland. They went especially to get acquainted with her new grandson, David James.

## Salt Creek

Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bartel were Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Schroeder and daughter.

Rev. Schroeder was guest speaker Sunday, at the Salt Creek Baptist church.

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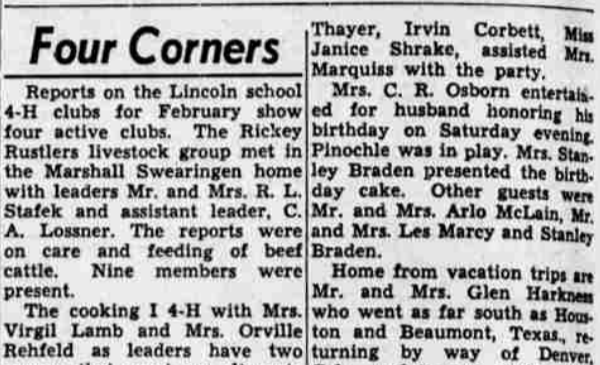
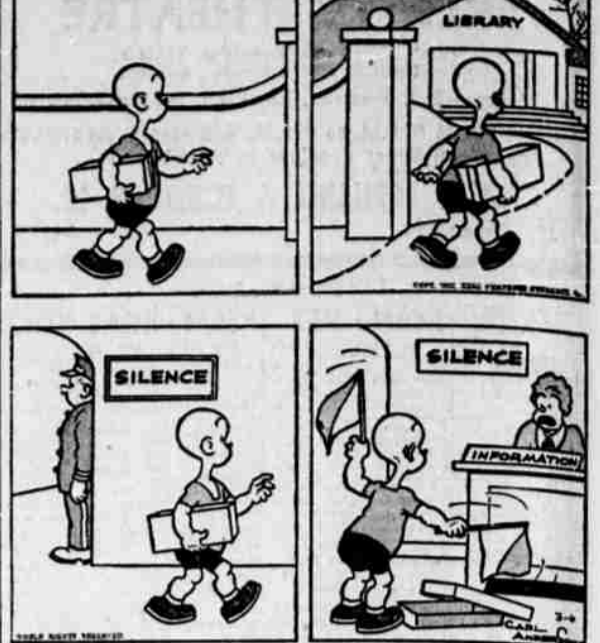
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BY CARL ANDERSON

## Henry



## Four Corners

Reports on the Lincoln school 4-H clubs for February show four active clubs. The Rickey Rustlers livestock group met in the Marshall Swearingen home with leaders Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Stafek and assistant leader, C. A. Lossner. The reports were on care and feeding of beef cattle. Nine members were present.

The cooking I 4-H with Mrs. Virgil Lamb and Mrs. Orville Rehfeld as leaders have two groups that meet on alternate Tuesdays. In the Busy Bees Joyce Kilgore and Judy Warren demonstrated griddle cakes and Lona Dean and Jeanie Shuck prepared deviled eggs. The Sugar and Spice group elected Sharon Dillard to the office of song leader to fill the place of Carol Powell who resigned from the club. Sherrill White and Sharon Dillard demonstrated waffles and Anita Coop and Eileen Beatty griddle cakes.

Cooking II 4-H has one group the Salt and Pepper club under the leadership of Mrs. Carol Capps. They completed their projects of milk dishes and omelets.

A duo of birthday anniversaries were celebrated Feb. 28. Nine year old Donald Marquiss, son of Mr. Donald Marquiss, took his guests to a movie party with dessert refreshments at his home later. Coming to extend felicitations to Donald were his grandmother, Mrs. Mae Currie of Portland, Dickie Brynson, Gary Gilstrap, Jack Kurrle, Robert Ferrin, Dickie Woelk, Gregg and Dick Shrake, Lloyd Alldredge, John Vogt, Aaron

Thayer, Irvin Corbett, Miss Janice Shrake, assisted Mrs. Marquiss with the party.

Mrs. C. R. Osborn entertained for husband honoring his birthday on Saturday evening. Pinochle was in play. Mrs. Stanley Braden presented the birthday cake. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Arlo McLain, Mr. and Mrs. Les Marcy and Stanley Braden.

Home from vacation trips are Mr. and Mrs. Glen Harkness who went as far south as Houston and Beaumont, Texas, returning by way of Denver, Colo., and Rupert, Idaho, visiting relatives at each stop.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gaskins Jerome, David and Cheryl spent three weeks with her parents, grandfather and other relatives in Bremerton, Wash.

New residents in Four Corners for the month of February are Mrs. Ella Carsten who has built a new cottage type house at 420 S. Elma avenue. Mr. Carsten former home was in Abilene, Kansas. Moving out from Salem are Mr. and Mrs. James Bell, Glennie and Dorothy. They are at home at 530 S. Lancaster drive. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Applebee, Linda and Mark moved out from Salem to 4085 Glenwood drive.

Coming here from Albany, Mr. and Mrs. Dwan Bethel and Larry Lee have taken the Brant cottage at 4040 Beck ave. vity@TSH-H.

## Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- Lump of earth
- Drinking vessel
- Mountain rabbit
- Fury
- Curmudgeon
- Arabian seaport
- Word of solemn affirmation
- Ringing insect
- Urchin
- Particle
- Charges
- Leaves German river
- Dance step
- Dutch commune
- Formerly
- Goddes of the harvest
- Whiskers
- Be situated
- Constellation
- Large artery
- Minimum
- Statute
- Edible seed
- Disorderly
- Gave back
- Flower
- Above
- Son of Bela
- Unaspirated
- Part of the verb to be
- Make lace
- German river
- Shellfish
- Halt

DOWN

- RAM LAVA ALOP CRIMINAL ROLE
- SLAKE SINE
- NOTE SPATTERS
- ADE STATE RUE
- PEDICURE PENT
- RATE SECTS
- ESCORT WART
- DEAN ELEGITIVE
- ERSE REK NIB
- NEED SADS GAB
- S-shaped molding
- American Indian
- One who cares for the teeth
- Mark of omission
- Range of knowledge
- Knmet
- Paddles
- Fortune
- Dismay
- Lacrimose drop
- Redact
- Medical fluids
- Shout
- One of the Great Lakes
- On the ocean
- Conjunction
- Showing ill will
- Solar disk
- Beard of grain
- Reject disdainfully
- Vexity
- Entrance
- Angered
- Take dinner
- Belgian river
- Steal
- Night before
- Tip
- Age



## ROOM & BOARD

