

Casual Slaughters

By VIRGINIA HANSON

YESTERDAY: Kay tells Julia Sandra's intention to marry Jeff immediately. Julia is furious at Sandra's intimation that Jeff is connected with the murder.

Chapter 19

Routine Questions

"YOU just don't understand Sandra," Julia said patiently, running a comb through her long bleached bob. "She likes men—different men, lots of them. Last night it happened to be Ivan. Tomorrow it might be the chaplain or Gerald or—Dad. But Jeff's the one she wants to marry, for the perfectly simple reason that he's the one she's in love with. There couldn't be any other reason—she hasn't a dime."

"Maybe she is doing it to spite you."

"She doesn't hate me that well."

We went down the back stairs, past the sound of Cora muttering in the kitchen and out the service entrance.

"We'll take the coupe; Mimi won't want it," Julia said, crossing the gravel back road to the double garage. "It's time for chapel to get out. We'll have to hurry."

But the chapel was closed and showed no sign of ever having been open. And when we went on to the club the first person we saw was Felix Bridwell seated on the veranda surrounded by the Sunday paper, calmly darning.

"My babies are all getting so big!" she simpered, holding up a man's sock.

"I thought you were at church," I said, faling for once to appreciate my favorite brand of humor.

"No church. The chaplain fell afoul of more poison ivy last night. That poor man!" She sighed piously. "I believe he sat in it this time."

Our continued sobriety drew from her a shrewd glance which passed from one to the other of us. She became pleasantly matter of fact.

"So we came home again. Or at least I did. But if you're looking for Sandra I can only say that she's some distance from here by now."

"With Jeff?" demanded Julia with remarkable self-control.

"With Jeff. He met us on the way home. He was driving and he had a marriage license. When he learned the chaplain was not coming, he decided to set out for parts unknown. They asked me to go along, but I have Sunday dinner to supervise. Then they came here and looked for you, Kay, and when you were not to be found they up and decided that maybe two was all it took to get married, so off they went—"

I did not wait for her to finish her cheerful rattling. Julia was as white as her hat. I took her firmly by the elbow and propelled her to my rooms.

The Trap

I DON'T know where our minds were that we didn't see the trap that was waiting for us, didn't make plans and decide on our stories. We were agreed to keep silence on one thing only—our glimpse of Sandra in Ivan's arms. That agreement seemed simple enough to carry out until Colonel Pennant, smiling at me across the big mahogany desk, asked me to go to the library and get me a book. He was later found dead, would be to point to the very thing Julia most wanted concealed. The ensuing questions would be inevitable: Was he alone? No, Sandra was with him. Did you see anyone else on or near the large at that time? Yes—Jeff.

Raised eyebrows.

I hesitated. Julia was sitting to one side and a little behind me. I dared not look around at her before I answered, but I could feel her tension, the silent plea she was sending me.

I turned to Adam, seated at one end of the big desk with a notebook and pencil; and, with such candor as I could summon, gave my answer in the form of an oblique question.

"When we walked off down the beach they were all together singing, weren't they?"

"That's the way I remember it," Adam admitted, but he looked at me for a fraction of a second longer than was necessary, and I could not rise what he was remembering that moment on the beach; or he might have been registering my evasion.

If they pressed me further about Ivan I think I would have

told them the rest of what I knew. Perhaps I would have told it anyway if I had been able to realize that the lean, friendly man in uniform with the silver eagles on his shoulders, the man who had danced with me, played bridge with me and told me funny stories about the service and about West Point, represented an authority that went beyond the county, even the state. An authority complete within the boundaries of his garrison and answerable only to a couple of superior officers and to the President of the United States.

I knew that, in a general way, through my unforgettable experience of murder at Fort Havens. But it was difficult to feel the wholesome awe that the normal civilian has for the customary forces of law and order. Besides, he was Julia's father, and Julia was prepared to pull the wool over his eyes in an effort to protect Jeff. She knew the service better than I did, and my sympathies were all with her. If possible, I wanted to leave this for her to handle.

Profound Amusement

IT was possible, Colonel Pennant did not ask me again when I had last seen Ivan alive. He accepted my evasion as an answer. And if my conscience troubled me a little I comforted myself with the unspoken gratitude in Julia's eyes.

For her father turned to her at once.

"What happened when the singing broke up?"

Julia shrugged, avoided his eyes.

"Gerald and I decided to turn cartwheels. It seemed like a good idea at the time." She smiled faintly. "I didn't notice what the others did."

"And when you came back, Katherine?"

"They were still turning cartwheels. And Jeff was asleep on a blanket."

I saw then that it would have to come out—about Sandra and Ivan on the barge. But perhaps we could avoid the suggestion that Jeff had known anything about it.

"See anyone else?"

I remembered the chaplain plodding down the beach and I told them about that.

"Then Sandra and Ivan must have been together," he said. And as that seemed to require no answer I was prudently silent. An instant later—"Where is Sandra?"

"By now she's probably Mrs. Jefferson Tack," said Julia, in a voice she contrived to make casual except for a break at the end. A break in her voice that was the first break in her composure since I had taken her to my rooms and made her lie, white and tearful, on my couch while I looked at her helplessly and tried to think of something comforting to say.

They had sent for us both then to come back to the colonel's quarters; and with relief and admiration I saw Sandra and Ivan self together and assume a fair imitation of indifference. But it could not last much longer.

Her father was regarding her with profound amazement.

"What did you say?" he demanded.

I broke into nervous speech, relating my story of Sandra's early call and her sudden determination to get married. The two men listened without comment, but when I had finished Colonel Pennant's normally genial face expressed angry disapproval.

"Why wasn't I told of this?" he asked coldly.

I answered, stammering a little, that I had considered it none of my business, which was true enough, but did not save my sense of guilt for the other things I had not told him. I had never seen his official manner—had not realized he could seem so forbidding.

Julia came to my defense.

"We tried to stop them, but they had already gone," she said dully. "Parents can't be surprisingly blind. He seemed unconscious of her personal tragedy in his own sudden wrath."

"I'll have a word to say to Lieutenant Tack about this," he announced grimly.

"But it wasn't his fault," Julia protested.

"Of course it was his fault. Sandra's a levelheaded girl. He got tired of waiting, the impatient young pup. Upset everyone—plans, arrangements." I may have been wrong, but I thought he was groping for grounds for his anger. And he produced them triumphantly. "Wait until Mind hears of it—she'll be wild!"

He rose from his chair, the investigation apparently forgotten, and started for the door.

To be continued

BRITAIN WILL CLOSE BURMA ROAD IF JAPS WILL SEEK WAR END

London, July 16.—(AP)—Authoritative British circles said that Britain had told Japan she would close the only route by which war supplies, mainly American, reach the Chinese central government for three months if Japan would use that time to seek a peace.

These circles said the United States government had been kept informed of the offer to close the supply route—the Burma road—and thus far had made no objections.

Washington, however, has sent "detailed comment" on the British-Japanese negotiations, it was said.

These authoritative circles said that, although some critics

FIREMAN EXAM TO PROVIDE ELIGIBLES

The Medford civil service board today announced open competitive examinations to create an eligible list for firemen in the local department.

Last date for filing applications for the examination is July 22. Application blanks may be procured at the city superintendent's office in city hall.

To qualify for the examination the applicant must be a United States citizen 21 to 35 years of age and a bona fide resident of Medford.

On the Radio Chains

Where to Find Them on the Dial
KEX, 1160, Portland; KJL, 648, Los Angeles; KGA, 1470, Spokane; KGO, 790, San Francisco; KGW, 120, Portland; KJR, 970, Seattle; KNS, 1650, Los Angeles; KQA, 830, Denver; KOIN, 940, Portland; KOMO 926 Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1120, Salt Lake.

Tuesday
9:00—Marimba Band, KPO, KGW; Exposition Band, KGO, KEX, KJR, News, KOIN.
5:30—Kent's Orch., KOIN, KNX; Musical Revue, KPO, KGW; Fun With the Revuers KGO, KEX, KJR.
6:00—News, KEX; Dorsey's Orch., KPO, KGW; Aloha Land, KGO; Miller's Orch., KOIN, KNX, KSL.
6:30—Easy Aces, KGO, KJR, KEX; Dog House, KPO, KGW; News of the War, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
7:00—Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Information Please, KPO, KGW.
7:30—Breese's Orch., KGO, KEX; Jimmy Presents, KPO, KGW; James Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL.
8:00—We, the People, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Musical Americana, KPO, KGW; Sports News, KGO.
KOW; Professor Quiz, KNX, KOIN, KGW; Professor Qui, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
9:00—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
9:30—Primi Orch., KGW; Miller's Orch., KOMO; Powell's Orch., KND.
10:00—Reporter, KPO, KGW; Goodman's Orch., KNX, KSL.
10:30—Young's Orch., KEX; Duchin's Orch., KPO; King's Orch., KNX.

WEDNESDAY
5:00—Summer Show, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Green Hornet, KGO, KJR, KEX.
5:30—Shield's Encore Music, KGO, KJR; Ricardo, KPO; Lewtson Concert, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
6:00—Rolle and Her Guitar, KGO; Kyser's Prgm., KPO, KGW; Boxing Bout, KEX, KJR; Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN.
6:30—News of the War, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR.
7:00—Joy's Orch., KGO; Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Hollywood Playhouse, KPO.
7:30—Drama, KGO, KEX, KJR; Plantation Party, KPO, KGW; Dr. Christian, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
8:00—Hour of Smiles, KPO, KGW; Adventures of Mr. Meek, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
8:30—Drama, KEX; Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KGW; Baseball, KGO; Question Bee, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
9:00—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Martin's Orch., KPO.
9:30—Stanford Univ., KPO, KGW; 10:00—Goodman's Orch., KNX, KSL; Reporter, KPO, KGW.
10:30—King's Orch., KNX, KSL; Duchin's Orch., KPO, KGW; Sudy's Orch., KEX.
11:00—Young's Orch., KOIN, KSL; Nottingham's Orch., KPO; This Morning World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KGW, KNX.

TOWNSEND CALLS ON DEMOCRATS TO BACK PENSION PRINCIPLES

Chicago, July 16.—(AP)—Dr. Francis E. Townsend called on the Democratic party today to adopt a plank favoring the principles of the Townsend old age pension plan. At the same time he gave notice that if the two major parties refused to endorse the movement, he would form a party of his own.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, told Democratic platform framers if President Roosevelt was "permitted" to handle the unemployment problem, he would find a solution for it.

Some thought Green's remark could be interpreted as an implied endorsement of a third term nomination for the president, but the labor leader said to newsmen later he did not intend it as such.

PAN-AMERICAN MEET PLANS NEAR FINISH
Washington, July 16.—(AP)—Secretary of State Cordell Hull

today virtually completed preparations for the forthcoming Pan-American consultative conference at Havana July 20, naming seven additional aides to accompany him there.

Hull, who is the only full-fledged U. S. delegate to the conference, remained at his desk while most of his cabinet colleagues attended the Democratic national convention in Chicago.

You'll enjoy the Fresh Sea Foods from Holly's, 123 E. Sixth.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 3:30 p. m.

LUXEMBOURG ROYALTY EN ROUTE TO AMERICA

Lisbon, July 16.—(AP)—Some members of the royal family of Luxembourg sailed for the United States today aboard the U. S. cruiser Trenton. The Grand Duchess Charlotte-Adelgunde, ruler of Luxembourg who was reported earlier as planning to accompany her family, remained here.

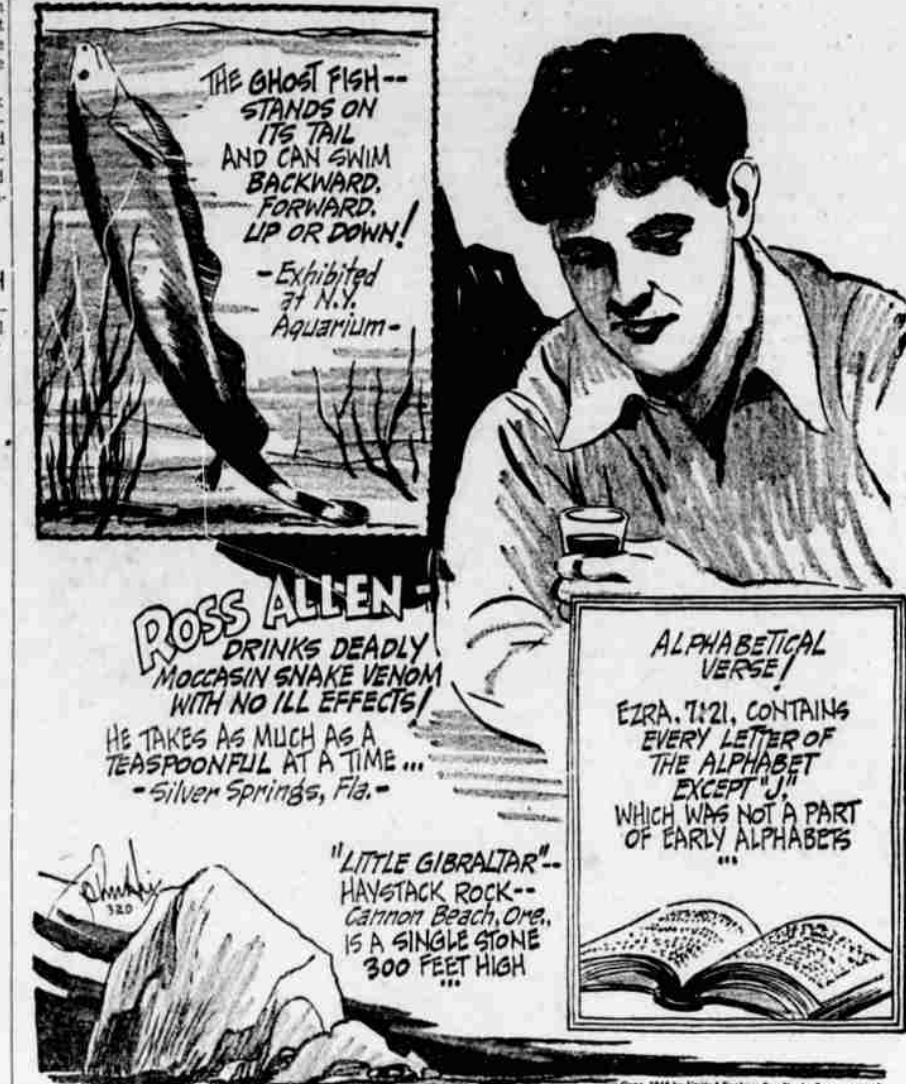
The royal family of Luxembourg includes the grand duchess, her consort, Prince Felix of Bourbon-Parma, and six children: Prince Jean, 19; Prince Charles, 13; and Princesses Elizabeth, 18; Marie-Adelaide, 16; Marie-Gabrielle, 15; and Alix, 11.

To Rebuild Bend Plant
Bend, July 16.—(AP)—Oregon Trail Manufacturing company stockholders here voted yesterday to rebuild their furniture plant destroyed by fire July 5.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 3:30 p. m.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



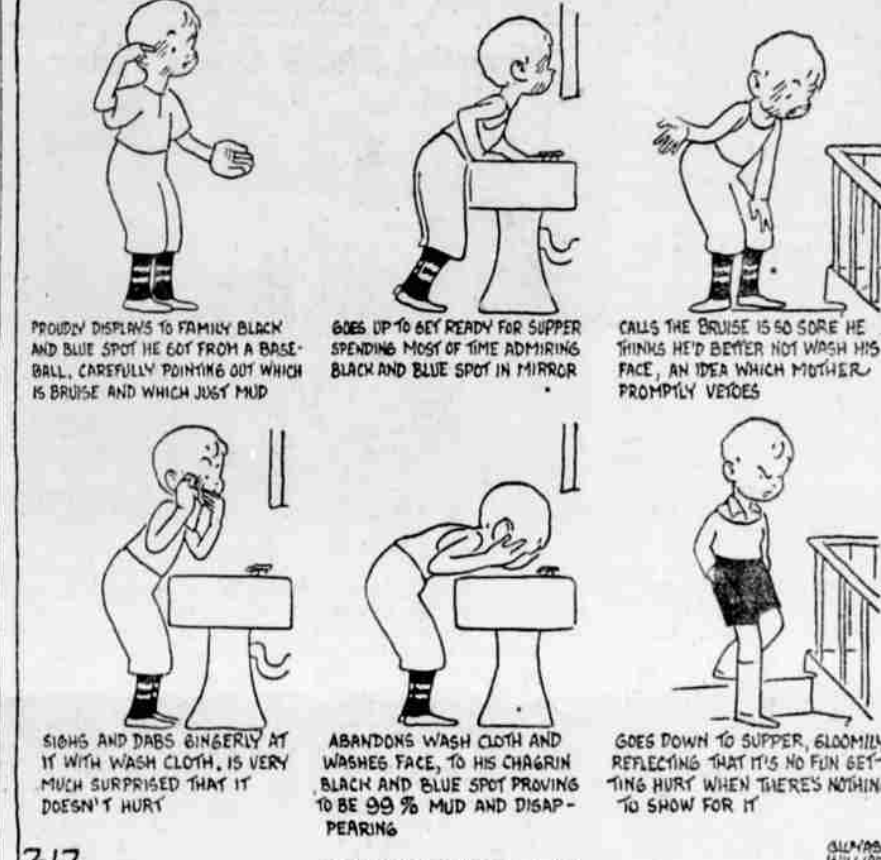
VENOM DRINKER
Strange as it seems, Ross Allen, who "milks" snakes for a living, can toss off a teaspoonful of deadly venom with no greater ill effect than a slight puckering of his lips! One or two drops of venom injected into an ordinary man would mean sure and sudden death.

"It was quite accidental that I first tasted snake venom," Allen says. "A cottonmouth moccasin bit down on a stick opposite my face and the venom spurted into my mouth. Often since that time I have tasted venom." Allen explained that snake venom, being a protein is digested in the stomach and its poisonous properties are destroyed.

Tomorrow: Accidental Discovery.

BLACK AND BLUE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



PROUDLY DISPLAYS TO FAMILY BLACK AND BLUE SPOT HE GOT FROM A BASEBALL, CAREFULLY POINTING OUT WHICH IS BRUISE AND WHICH JUST MUD

GOES UP TO GET READY FOR SUPPER SPENDING MOST OF TIME ADMIRING BLACK AND BLUE SPOT IN MIRROR

CALLS THE BRUISE IS SO SORE HE THINKS HE'D BETTER NOT WASH HIS FACE, AN IDEA WHICH MOTHER PROMPTLY REJECTS

SINGS AND DABS GINGERLY AT IT WITH WASH CLOTH, IS VERY MUCH SURPRISED THAT IT DOESN'T HURT

ABANDONS WASH CLOTH AND WASHES FACE, TO HIS CHAGRIN BLACK AND BLUE SPOT PROVING TO BE 99% MUD AND DISAPPEARING

GOES DOWN TO SUPPER, GLOOMILY REFLECTING THAT IT'S NO FUN GETTING HURT WHEN THERE'S NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT

TAILSPIN TOMMY

Broadcasting Against Obstacles!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Ephraim Pickens



THE NEBBS—Overlooked



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER

Ephraim Pickens



I SURE APPRECIATE THIS LIFT, MISTER—MY NAME'S BEN WEBSTER—
HEH! HEH! BIG DICTIONARY MAN, EH? MINE'S EPHRAIM PICKENS—
GOIN' TO THE CITY 'GIT OUT A NEW DICTIONARY, I RECKON, EH?
NO...TO LOOK FOR A JOB AND SEE IF I CAN FIND A FRIEND OF MINE—
HEH! HEH! YOU MUST BE POWERFUL AMBITIOUS, TRYIN' TO FIND A JOB AN' A FRIEND AT ONE AN' THE SAME TIME—
WHY, MR. PICKENS?
WELL, JOBS AN' FRIENDS IS BOTH SCARCE AS HENS' TEETH, AN' TO LAND 'EM IN COMBINATION IS MIGHTY HIGH PLUMB IMPOSSIBLE, I'D SAY!

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....

AS TOMMY, INSIDE THE ADBO, WITH BETTY, LON, STARTED TO SEND OUT A RADIO CALL FOR HELP TO SKEEKER, ONE OF BERRAND'S HENCHMEN CLIMBED UPON THE ROOF INTENT UPON RIPPING AWAY THE AERIAL!

IF THAT GUY, TAILSPIN TOMMY BROADCASTS A WARNING...IT'S GONNA BE BAD FOR ALL OF US...
SKEETS! COME ON IN! DID YOU HEAR ME?... THE BOMB...UNDER THE INSTRUMENT BOARD...DROP IT... NOW!
TOMMY... LISTEN!!!!
YEAH, I HEAR YOU TOM... GO AHEAD...
SOMEONE... IS CRAWLING OVER THE ROOF!
NOW WE'VE GOT 'EM BOTTLED UP... THEY CAN'T YAP FER HELP OVER TH' RADIO!

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....

HERE COMES THIS GUY EMBERT... I'LL PRETEND I DON'T SEE HIM BUT HERE'S HIS CHANCE TO MAKE UP WITH ME
THERE'S NEBB... I'LL PRETEND I DON'T SEE HIM... HE KICKED ME OUT... HERE'S HIS CHANCE TO WELCOME ME BACK
HE SAW ME ALL RIGHT— HE COULDN'T HELP IT— THERE'S THE PRIZE BULL— HEAD OF THE UNIVERSE
THERE WAS HIS OPPORTUNITY— I'M SURE HE SAW ME AND I WAS IN SUCH A FORGIVING MOOD— HE'S NOT LIABLE TO CATCH ME LIKE THAT AGAIN

HE SAW ME ALL RIGHT— HE COULDN'T HELP IT— THERE'S THE PRIZE BULL— HEAD OF THE UNIVERSE
THERE WAS HIS OPPORTUNITY— I'M SURE HE SAW ME AND I WAS IN SUCH A FORGIVING MOOD— HE'S NOT LIABLE TO CATCH ME LIKE THAT AGAIN

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....

AND HIGH IN THE SKY... SKEETED.....