Lena Hates Men

by MARGOT NEVILLE

Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Clarice Dodd, wealthy middle-aged widow, lives in Sydney, Australia. Her nephew and niece, Felix and Joyce Burke, live with her. Two girls, Eileen Foster and Denise Deschamps, are house guests. Frequent visitors include Bill and Brenda Wheatley, brother and sister, and their friend, Michael Rawson. One night, Clarice dies from an overdose of sleeping tablets. When her eccentric maid, Lena, insists that she had only one tablet in her possession that night, Inspector Grogan of the police investigates. Lena reveals that Felix had a violent quarrel with Clarice. Late the next afternoon, Lena is found stabbed to death in her room. Within a few minutes Grogan is there to question everyone. From the Wheatleys he learns that Felix was playing tennis with them but left the court to look for lost balls. When he returned, there was a spot of blood on his shirt, which he explained by saying he had scratched his hand on a rose bush. Grogan finds Felix taking a shower, discovers that he has washed the shirt, and accuses him of killing Lena. Felix acts as though her death is news to him.

CHAPTER XXVII

FELIX sank down on the edge of the bathtub. "Lena d-dead?" he stammered. "But who—who could want to murder that poor old thing? What for?"

"That's what I mean to find out." Grogan stepped close and shot another question at him. "Why were you in such a hurry to get up here from the tennis court when you found that there was blood on your shirt?"

"Because—because—oh, it had nothing to do with the shirt. I just didn't feel like playing any more. I'd been looking for two lost balls in the garden, and I was hot and tired. That's when I scratched my hand—on a rose bush. If you don't believe me—look." Felix held out a hand to show a long red scratch on the back.

Grogan didn't even glance at it. "Did you see any one while you were looking for those balls?"

"No—there was no one in that part of the garden, so far as I know."

"How long were you searching?"

"About five minutes, I should think."

"What time did you go out onto the court?"

"Five to seven. I noticed the clock in the hall. Miss Deschamps and Miss Foster and I had been talking to Lena there."

"What about?"

"She was threatening to leave tomorrow—said some one had tried to get into her room this afternoon. She claimed she was sitting there and saw the door open, then suddenly shut. I didn't think anything about it. She often imagined things."

"You say you went down to the court immediately after talking to her. How long did you play?"

"Not long. About fifteen minutes."

"Until ten past seven, eh? And then you spent about five minutes looking for the balls?"

"Yes. I went back to the court for a minute, and then came up to the house."

"WHEN you came up here to the bathroom, what stairway did you use—the front one or the back one opposite Lena's door?"

"I came in at the front door and went up the front stairway."

"Then why is there a white mark from the tennis court off somebody's shoe on the lowest step of the back stairway?"

"Is there? I don't know anything about that." Felix answered steadily.

"I suggest that you *did* go up that back stairway." Grogan shot at him. "Moreover, I suggest that you didn't go looking for lost balls during the time you were away from the tennis court—you came into the house to look for Lena. You probably sneaked in the side door and found her in her room. You either knew or feared she had discovered some new evidence connecting you with Mrs. Dodd's death — and so you got rid of her. Then, on your way back to the court, you saw the blood on your sleeve and took good care to scratch your hand on something, so that you could account for the blood in case the Wheatleys noticed it."

"Good lord!" Felix stared at the inspector. "Do you really think all that?"

"You washed your shirt," Grogan went on relentlessly. "Have you ever washed your shirts before?"

"No—I don't suppose I have."

"Then why did you do it this time?"

"I don't know. It was just an impulse. I just chucked it into the water so it wouldn't get stained."

"You should worry! With a whole chestful of shirts!"

Felix didn't say anything to that.

Grogan turned and started out of the room. "Get dressed and come down to the dining room. I'm questioning the others there, and will have more to ask you."

WHEN Felix went downstairs, the kitchen passage near Lena's room was swarming with men from police headquarters. He crossed the hall and went into the dining room. Almost everyone was there with Grogan and Manning and a couple of constables.

Grogan sent Felix out again with a constable to the fingerprint man, and they took his fingerprints. They had taken all the others, he discovered.

When he got back to the dining room, the inspector was questioning Rath.

"So the knife with which Lena was stabbed is one of your gardening tools, is it? When did you see that knife last?"

Rath moved from foot to foot. "She borrowed it from me this afternoon to cut a bit of creeper on the veranda."

"Did she put it back in the tool house?"

"I didn't look."

"Where would she have been likely to leave it if she didn't put it back?"

"Anywhere, she might have left it. In the hall, on the veranda, stuck it in her apron pocket. She'd been very forgetful since Mrs. Dodd died."

GROGAN turned to Norah. "You say you were in the kitchen at the time of the murder. Did you hear anything at all from Lena's room?"

Plump, terrified Norah was the color of uncooked suet.

"Not a sound, sir."

"Did you hear her go into her room?"

"I can't say I did. Miss Foster and I were talking."

"You, Miss Foster, you were helping Norah to shell peas, weren't you?" Grogan asked.

"Yes." Eileen spoke with difficulty. "I didn't hear anything, either."

"Why did you go straight to Lena's room, then, to look for her?"

"I passed the door when I left the kitchen. I just tapped and called to her."

"The door, now—was it open or shut?"

"It was open a few inches. I pushed it when she didn't answer. And then—then I saw her. I called and Norah came running. She screamed, and Michael and Rath and the sergeant all ran from the garden. Norah ran upstairs for Dr. Nugent and—and he said Lena was dead." Eileen's voice faded away.

She glanced around at the others. She had never seen a group of people look so still.

(To be continued)

(The characters in this serial are fictitious)

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FIGHTER SQUADRON BOASTS RECORD IN DESTROYING JAPS

An Advance Air Base, Solomon Islands, Dec. 14 — (U.P.) — The "Skull and Crossbones" fighter squadron, deadliest land-based navy fighter outfit that ever operated in the south Pacific, boasted a record today of 47 Japanese planes destroyed between Nov. 1 and Nov. 29 at a cost of only one of its own pilots.

The squadron is led by Lt. Cmdr. John Blackburn, 31, Washington, D. C. Besides bagging 47 planes, it destroyed 21 barges, nine cargo ships, one tug, three houses and numerous anti-aircraft positions on Bougainville and in the Shortlands before completing its first tour of duty in this area.

The squadron's only combat loss was Ensign Bradford Baker, Seattle, Wash., who downed a Jap bomber before he was shot down himself.

The 47 planes were spread among the 22 pilots, with no aces in the squadron. No pilot downed more than four planes, the number credited to Lt. Cmdr. Blackburn and Ensign (Ike) Kepford, Muskegon, Ill., former all-America blocking back at Northwestern university.

Closing time for Classified ads 9 a. m. — Too late to Classify 12:30 p. m.

THE GRANGE

Eagle Point Grange

An interesting Christmas program will be given Tuesday December 21, at Eagle Point Grange, starting at 8 p. m. A pageant will be given, directed by Mrs. William Lang. The serving committee includes Mr. and Mrs. Elbert and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Clark.

Soldiers and WACs will entertain at the Grange hall Saturday night, December 18. Ladies attending are asked to bring sandwiches and cookies.

Pfc. Peter Prouse, of Camp White, spoke at the last Grange meeting on the political and economical situation in Peru, he having spent some time in that country on a scholarship. Pfc. Prouse, who is a graduate of Princeton, has agreed to give another talk to Grange at a later date.

A capacity crowd attended the carnival and bazaar December 11. Entertainment included vocal selections by a quartet, Clara Bigham, Kathleen Davies, Mary Lilly and Burnett Yorton, accompanied by Mrs. William Lang; several Mexican vocalists; tap numbers by Jewell Nelson, music played by Mrs. Climer. Dancing was enjoyed later to music furnished by Mrs. Hay, and a cake march to accordion violin, and Mrs. Galbreth, piano.

Sacramento, Dec. 14—(U.P.)—Funeral arrangements were being made today for William N. Tier, manager of the Hotel Senator here since 1940, who died yesterday of a cerebral hemorrhage Tier, 51, formerly managed the Multnomah Hotel at Portland, Ore.

COURT HOUSE NEWS

Marriage Licenses

John A. Benseon and Kathryn Eleanor Dodson.

Gilbert Ruozi and Edith Loueen Hoefft.

Ervin H. Koeh and Elizabeth Hinrichs.

Dan J. Ferguson and Ruth Virginia Hurd.

Sam C. Bowen and Juanita Harwell.

Tony Rora and Ruth L. Price.

William Blackmer and Rose Angela Sander.

Donald K. Bornofska and Cleo Williams.

Edward J. Zander and Betty J. Bagley.

Jerrold Wayne Akins and Ila Grace Devilbiss.

Aaron J. Shaw and Verla M. Griffin.

Edward R. Jeffrey and Eleanor Adair.

Leonard Harrison Decker and Viola Marie Winters.

Olaf B. Robertson and Evelyn Margaret Cates.

Herschell E. Claiborne and Norma Lee Padgett.

Sgt. Jackson William Kenny and Mary K. Walsh.

Hazen M. Smith and Alma I. Olson.

Robert Thomas Charpentier and Isabelle Wisnowski.

Ray Maready and Iona Florence Love.

Paul Eugene Cropper and Georgia D. Hardin.

Divorce Petitions Filed

Harriett Althea Watson vs. Morris C. Watson.

Myrtle Eva Prevette vs. James Alvin Prevette.

David A. Snyder vs. Goldie Snyder.

Naoma E. Flynn vs. Harold E. Flynn.

Donald Baumunko vs. Bernadine Baumunko.

John Thanos vs. Edna Thanos.

Zelda Iva Milan vs. Fred C. Milan, Jr.

Probate Court

Estate of O. F. Case, deceased.

Estate of George Iverson, deceased.

Estate of George B. Crapsey, deceased.

Guardianship of Harriet Shepard Grizzard, minor.

Guardianship of Larry Howard Kell, minor.

Deeds

Mary A. Moffat, John P. Moffat, Ruth C. Holmes, William E. Holmes, Gertrude P. Holmes, George B. Holmes and Josephine Holmes to John F. Lawrence, quitclaim deed.

Elsie Butler, A. P. Butler, Ruth Brownell and A. B. Brownell to John F. Lawrence, quitclaim deed.

Claude A. Steele and Carrie E. Steele to Jacob Weitzel and Velna Weitzel, warranty deed.

Jacob Weitzel and Velna Weitzel to Wells D. Jackson and Anna T. Jackson, warranty deed.

John J. Lucas and Goldie I. Lucas to Mary E. Rogers, warranty deed.

Arthur M. Geary and Martha D. Geary to Agnes M. Geary, quitclaim deed.

Georgia M. Davis to Richard N. Davis and Mary F. Davis, contract.

Herbert E. Specht and Dorothy F. Specht to E. R. Holland and Mary E. Holland, contract.

Frank W. Lawrence and Fannie E. Lawrence to Clara V. Wigley, warranty deed.

George E. Tribett and Marie Tribett to J. B. Dobbyn and Christine Dobbyn, warranty deed.

Lawrence Pennington and Ella M. Pennington to Walter M. Corwin and Allie B. Corwin, warranty deed.

Ira Smith and Evelin M. Smith to Andrew E. Stevens and Blanche E. Stevens, warranty deed.

Andrew E. Stevens and Blanche E. Stevens to Charles F. Johnson and Velma B. Johnson, warranty deed.

James U. Smith and Mrs. Lottie Smith to California Oregon Power Company, right of way.

Oscar L. Holly and Mary K. Holly to W. C. Gingrich and Freda Gingrich, warranty deed.

Cleo Colby and Lionel Colby to Thora B. Cooper, warranty deed.

James H. Owen and Georgia Fay Owen to I. E. Staples and Naida Staples, warranty deed.

James H. Owen and Georgia Fay Owen to Glenn O. Taylor and Theone E. Taylor, warranty deed.

J. R. Maynard to Emmett Johnson and Bernice Johnson, warranty deed.

Norma McAllister to O. M. Estes, warranty deed.

Otto H. Bohnert and Virginia Bohnert to Albert Stallsworth and Eva Mae Stallsworth, warranty deed.

E. H. Janney and Sarah R. Janney to Fannie J. Pickett and Clara Cleveland, warranty deed.

Roy Bradford to Vester S. Bradford, warranty deed.

Elmer Womack, Louise Womack, Alfred R. Womack and Jean M. Womack to Vester S. Bradford, warranty deed.

Frank Jantzer, Sr., to Frank X. Jantzer, warranty deed.

Elda F. Anderson to Grange Cooperative Supply Association, contract.

J. E. Hoxie to Clinton B. Andrews and Minnie B. Andrews, warranty deed.

James S. Gibbs and Mrs. Harriette Gibbs to Allie W. Purch, warranty deed.

James H. Issott and Anna Issott to Lloyd Wright and Freeda Wright, warranty deed.

Lloyd Edwin Bennett and Patti Mae Bennett to Maynard Bush and Olga Bush, warranty deed.

Mildred Hayes and Alex G. Hayes to David H. olmes and arry L. olmes, warranty deed.

Ralph E. Green and Jennie Faurote Green to Ida M. Lockwood, warranty deed.

Richard C. Mulholland and Anna M. Mulholland to . E. ughes and ildred J. ughes, warranty deed.

George Shrull and Mary Shrull to W. J. McCulloch, warranty deed.

Capital Company to Willard J. McCulloch and azel M. McCulloch, warranty deed.

Willard J. McCulloch and Hazel M. McCulloch to George A. Bohnert and Olive Bohnert, warranty deed.

Sarah Wakeman to Harry Winters and Lenore Winters, quitclaim deed.

Dolly A. Heckler to Frances Wilshire, quitclaim deed.

Ethel Palmer McGaughey MacIntyre and William A. MacIntyre to Edward E. Vail and Leah M. Vail, warranty deed.

A. H. Davenhill and Edith E. Davenhill to F. S. Engle, warranty deed.

F. S. Engle and Grace Engle to A. H. Davenhill and Edith E. Davenhill, special warranty deed.

Nita Greaves and John C. Greaves to Medford Irrigation District, quitclaim deed.

Medford Irrigation District to Cleve C. Tye, warranty deed.

Wm. Reinhart and Daisy B. Reinhart to R. C. Fletcher, lease.

H. H. Parkhurst and Mary Ann Parkhurst to Crater Lake Orchards, inc., warranty deed.

Florence E. Cuffel and Everett E. Cuffel to Myron Root and Company, Inc., warranty deed.

J. B. Bynum and Maud Bynum to George Shrull and Mary Shrull, warranty deed.

Thomas J. Smith to J. A. Zimmerman and Frances E. Zimmerman, warranty deed.

Sheriff Syd I. Brown to Mamie Venable, sheriff's deed.

Jackson County Court to City of Medford, quitclaim deed.

Jackson County Court to Alice I. High, quitclaim deed.

Daniel Hanscom and Mary A. Hanscom to Lon Chamberlain and Hazel May Chamberlain, warranty deed.

Robert J. Prentice and Helene C. Prentice to Orase A. Selby and Hazel Selby, warranty deed.

Lydia Jane Moore to C. E. Huffman and Blanche Huffman, special warranty deed.

Joseph R. Marshall and Helen Marshall to Charles W. Lemery and Merna Y. Lemery, warranty deed.

D. Haight to Lawrence Whitsett and Delia Whitsett, quitclaim deed.

State Land Board to Noyce A. Grant and hartley Green, deed.

Otto W. Miller and Harriet I. Miller to A. J. Boulter, Gladys R. Boulter and I. R. Boulter, warranty deed.

Marcus M. Moen and Lois F. Moen to Edgar G. Whiteside and Alta B. whiteside, warranty deed.

Edgar G. Whiteside and Alta B. Whiteside to F. G. Hughes and Gladys O. Hughes, warranty deed.

Alice I. High and Nathan L. High to Edward B. High and Inga H. High, warranty deed.

Dwight Lenear Roys and Marguerite W. Roys to W. N. Clark and Della M. Clark warranty deed.

Arthur B. Wiltermood and Blanche Wiltermood to Carl H. Wiltermood and Zada Wiltermood, warranty deed.

Sheriff Syd I. Brown to A. B. Wiltermood, certificate of redemption.

Russell W. Womelsdorf and Evelyn Womelsdorf to Edward M. Smith and Marie V. Smith, warranty deed.

Aimee Olive Hammersley and Joseph P. Hammersley to E. C. Fiene and Minnie I. Fiene, waranty deed.

STATUE TO CHURCHILL VISIONED BY JAPANESE

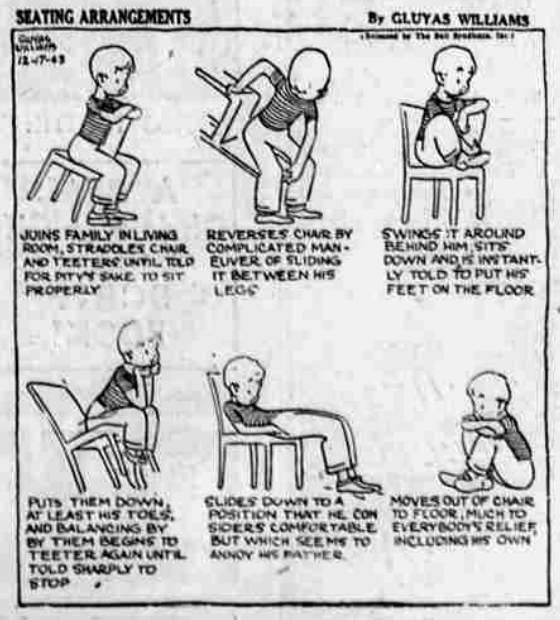
By United Press

Tokyo radio's propaganda today included a Domei Japanese news agency dispatch alleging that a bronze statue of Prime Minister Churchill is to be unveiled soon in Washington as a token of America's appreciation that he is making England "just another state of America."

The broadcast was recorded by the United Press in New York.

A garbage survey of 247 cities showed that about 20 per cent of the food purchased by householders was wasted.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510 Spokane;
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810 San Francisco;
KGW (NBS-Red) 620, Portland;
KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle;
KNX (CBS) 1070 Los Angeles;
KOA (NBC-Red) 850 Denver;
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland;
KOMO (NBC-Red) 950 Seattle;
KPO (NBC-Red) 680 San Francisco;
KSL (CBS) 1160 Salt Lake City.

Time Shown Is PWT

Tuesday

5:00 p. m.—Terry and Pirates, BN; Galen Drake, CBS.
5:15 p. m.—Dale Cross Orch., NBC; Dick Tracy, BN; Superman, MBS.
5:30 p. m.—Horace Heidt Treasure Chest, NBC; Jack Armstrong, BN; Harry Flannery, news, CBS.
5:45 p. m.—Capt. Midnight, BN; News, CBS.
5:55 p. m.—Bill Henry, news, CBS.
6:00 p. m.—Mystery Theater, NBC; Three Romeos, BN; Gabriel Heatter, MBS; Burns and Allen, CBS.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Fibber McGee and Molly, NBC; Spotlight Bands, BN; Forum of the Air, MBS; Report to Nation, CBS.
7:00 p. m.—Bob Hope, NBC; Raymond Gram Swing, BN.
7:15 p. m.—Fulton Oursler, MBS
7:30 p. m.—Red Skelton, NBC; Red Ryder, BN; Joy Orch., MBS; Congress Speaks, CBS.
7:45 p. m.—Guy Lombardo Orch., CBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; I Love a Mystery, CBS.
8:15 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, NBC; Big Town, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—Salute to Youth, NBC; News, MBS; Judy Canova, CBS.
9:25 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsch, CBS.
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC; Henry King Orch., MBS.
10:20 p. m.—William Winter, CBS.
10:30 p. m.—Edwin C. Hill, CBS.
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Ted Powell Orch., CBS.
11:00 p. m.—Biltmore Hotel Orch., NBC; This Moving World, BN; Sinfonietta, MBS; Henri Busse Orch., CBS.

Wednesday

5:00 p. m.—Galen Drake, CBS; Terry and Pirates, BN.
5:15 p. m.—Superman, MBS; Rhythm and Romance, NBC; Dick Tracy, BN.
5:30 p. m.—Jack Armstrong, BN
5:45 p. m.—Louis P. Lochner, NBC; Norman Nesbitt, MBS; Capt. Midnight, BN.
6:00 p. m.—Eddie Cantor, NBC; Gabriel Heatter, MBS; Band Wagon, BN.
6:15 p. m.—Gracie Fields, MBS.
6:30 p. m.—Mr. District Attorney, NBC; Jack Carson, CBS; Soldiers With Wings, MBS; Spotlight Bands, BN.
6:55 p. m.—Harry Wismer, sports, BN.
7:00 p. m.—Kay Kyser's Kollege, NBC; Moments in Music, CBS; John B. Hughes, MBS; Raymond Gram Swing, BN.
7:15 p. m.—Fulton Oursler, MBS.
7:30 p. m.—Lone Ranger, MBS.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, NBC; Roy Porter, news, BN; I Love a Mystery, CBS; Main Line, MBS.
8:15 p. m.—Fleetwood Lawton, commentator, NBC; Lum and Abner, BN; Harry James Orch., CBS.
8:30 p. m.—Beat the Band, NBC; Battle of Sexes, BN; Dr. Christian, CBS; Bulldog Drummond, MBS.
8:55 p. m.—Joseph C. Harsch, CBS.
9:00 p. m.—Mr. and Mrs. North, NBC; Sammy Kaye Orch., CBS; News, MBS.
9:30 p. m.—Scramby Amby, NBC; General Barrows, MBS.
9:45 p. m.—Fulton Lewis, Jr., MBS.
10:00 p. m.—News, NBC.
10:45 p. m.—Voice of a Nation, NBC; Eddy Howard Orch., MBS.
11:00 p. m.—Biltmore Hotel Orch., NBC; Halls of Montezuma, MBS.

Closing time for Classified ads 9 a m — Too late to Classify 12:30 p m

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS by JOHN HIX

Crossword Puzzle

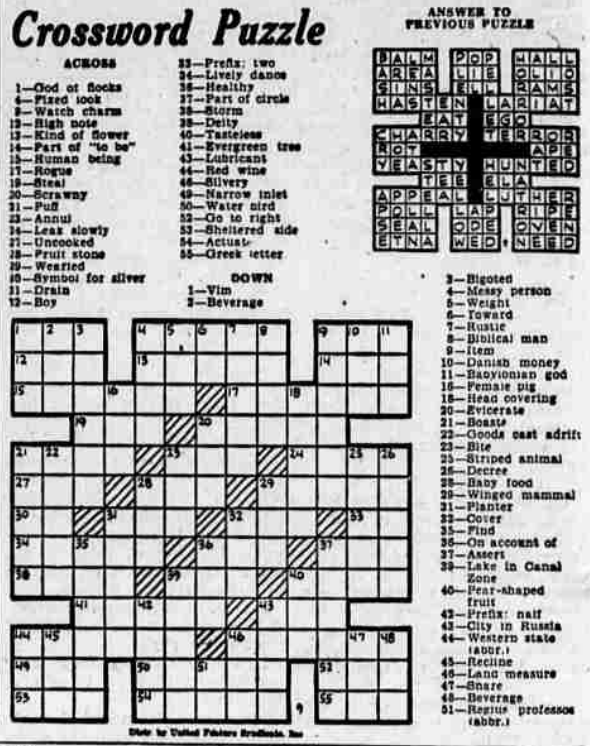
ACROSS

1—God of flocks
6—Fixed look
9—Watch charm
12—High note
13—Kind of flower
14—Part of "to be"
15—Human being
17—Rogue
19—Steal
20—Scrawny
21—Puff
23—Annul
24—Lean slowly
27—Uncooked
28—Fruit stone
29—Wearied
30—Symbol for silver
31—Drain
32—Boy
33—Prefix: two
34—Lively dance
36—Healthy
37—Part of circle
38—Storm
39—Deity
40—Tasteless
41—Evergreen tree
43—Lubricant
44—Red wine
46—Silvery
49—Narrow inlet
50—Water bird
52—Go to right
53—Sheltered side
54—Actuate
55—Greek letter

DOWN

1—Vim
2—Beverage
3—Bigoted
4—Messy person
5—Weight
6—Toward
7—Rustic
8—Biblical man
9—Item
10—Danish money
11—Babylonian god
16—Female pig
18—Head covering
20—Eviscerate
21—Boasts
22—Goods cast adrift
23—Bite
25—Striped animal
26—Decree
28—Baby food
29—Winged mammal
31—Planter
32—Cover
35—Find
36—On account of
37—Assert
39—Lake in Canal Zone
40—Pear-shaped fruit
42—Prefix: half
43—City in Russia
44—Western state (abbr.)
45—Recline
46—Land measure
47—Snare
48—Beverage
51—Regular professor (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH—Keeping Under Cover!

BLONDIE—A Called Bluff. By CHIC YOUNG

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Slips! Edited by DREW PEARSON

LI'L ABNER—The Law Speaks By AL CAPP

THE NEBBS—A Dog's Life By HESS