WOMEN WON'T TALK

BY RENE RYERSON MART

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THE STORY: Derek Grady has been found murdered on the grounds of Kraiktower. Marthe Kraik warns Kathy, her granddaughter, and Margaret, the housekeeper, not to admit to the police that they know who he is. The police recognize him as a man wanted for kidnaping. Connie, married to Kathy's father, has been acting strangely. She asks that her husband be sent for.

* * *

BETWEEN 12 AND 1

CHAPTER VI

I GOT up stiffly. "Very well, then. I'll put in a long-distance call."

I simply told him that Connie wasn't feeling well, and that he had better come down for the week-end.

While I was phoning I saw a big black ambulance come up the drive. They had come for Derek's body. But it must have been two hours before Deputy Shaw came back into the house.

He said he would have to have a statement from each of us as to where we had been between 12 and 1 o'clock. So, I thought, that's when the coroner had decided that Derek was killed.

Between 12 and 1, Connie and I had been at lunch in the dining room. Later we had taken the twins out on the east terrace—but that must have been after 1 o'clock.

Kathy said she had been in her room. She said she had come back about 11 and had had a headache and hadn't wanted any lunch.

Shaw seemed interested. "You came back—Miss Kraik? Where had you been?"

Kathy answered carelessly. "I took a drive this morning."

"Any place in particular?"

"No." Somehow I got the impression that she was doing some very fast thinking. "I—I stopped in the village for some gas," she added. "You can check at the Sunoco station."

Shaw went on questioning the others.

Imogene Lake told him that she had been feeding the twins their lunch in the breakfast room during the hour in question. Sarah said she had been in the kitchen, and Clara that she had been serving lunch to Connie and me in the dining room, and to the twins and their nurse in the breakfast room at the same time.

I had just remembered that Connie had left the table while she and I were eating. She had said something about reminding Miss Lake that Judy was to have no sugar. She must have been gone from the dining room for five minutes.

* * *

I CAST my sudden suspicion away, and felt like a fool. After all, Connie was the only one of us—omitting the servants—who wouldn't have a reason for wishing Derek dead. She didn't know him.

Thinking all this out, I missed Deputy Shaw's next question. He repeated it brusquely: "Don't you have a chauffeur?"

But John was out as a suspect. As I explained to the deputy, I had sent him early that morning with the station wagon to get the motor for our boat which was being repaired in Middleton. He wasn't back yet. Shaw said he'd see him later.

"That all the servants?" he asked snapping shut his notebook.

"No-o," I admitted reluctantly. "There's Margaret Grady, my housekeeper."

Kathy's face had gone white.

"I have a confession to make, deputy," I said through stiff lips. "We let you think we didn't know the murdered man—but he is Margaret Grady's grandson. I had some silly notion of shielding her—of breaking the news of his death gently to her later—but I've told her now."

He blinked his eyes at me. "I'll have to see her," he said roughly.

Meekly I led the way to Margaret's room.

* * *

SHE was sitting as I had left her.

The chief deputy's manner gentled perceptibly at sight of her.

"Mrs. Grady," he said, "I am here to investigate the death of your grandson. We have reason to believe that he was killed between noon and 1 o'clock. As a matter of routine, I'll have to ask you some questions. Can you remember where you were at that time?"

It was then Margaret put her hands up to her face and began to sob. She rocked back and forth, tears trickling between her gnarled fingers. "No—no—no."

It was obvious even to the deputy that Margaret was in no condition to be questioned.

We went back into the upper hall. "The rest of your family would know Derek Grady, now, wouldn't they?" he snapped sarcastically.

I was too weary to parry his questions. "Derek's mother died when he was born," I told the deputy. "He lived in this house until he was 17 years old. Then—he went to live with his father." There was no need to go on with what little I knew of his life since then. From his ready identification of the body, it was evident that Deputy Shaw knew more about Derek's recent activities than I did.

"Besides his grandmother, my granddaughter and I are the only ones here who knew him. The other servants are new, and my daughter-in-law never met him," I finished.

The deputy stared hard at me but there was a change in his manner. He offered me an apology.

"I'm really sorry we have to bother you and your household in this manner, Mrs. Kraik. But the man was killed on your place, and we have to do our duty."

I accepted his apology stiffly and stood at the head of the stairs and watched him go down. Clara showed him out. I supposed that was the last I would see of Sam Shaw.

But I was mistaken.

(To Be Continued)

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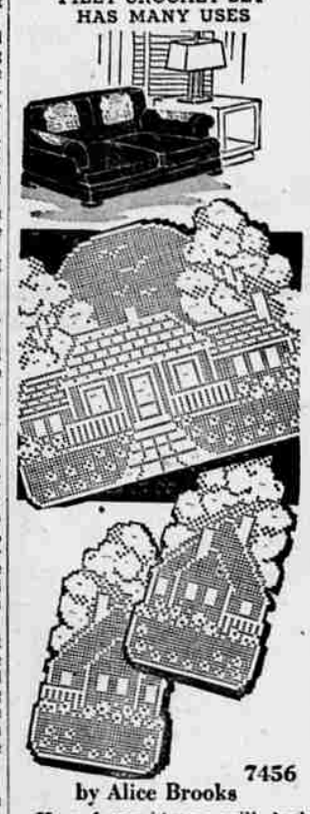
FILET CROCHET SET HAS MANY USES



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6-10

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RIGHTERONG?

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A CHESHIRE CAT!

ANSWER: Right. It exists only in legend and story

NEXT: Tornadoes vs. automobiles.

AWARD FOR BRAVERY

HORIZONTAL

1,6 Depicted military award for bravery, the U. S. Army —— of ——
11 Funnies
12 Puts forth effort
14 Animal
15 Drain
17 Measure of area
18 Of the thing
19 Test solution (abbr.)
20 Symbol for tellurium
21 Decay
23 Morindin dye
24 Large snake
25 Vigorous
27 Claim as due
29 Symbol for thoron
30 Onward
31 This —— is made by the President in the name of Congress
34 Subjected to grading
38 Variety (abbr.)
39 Sea eagle
41 Service charge
42 Compass point
43 Giant king of Bashan
44 Babylonian deity
45 Dutch city
47 Manuscript (abbr.)
49 Tin (symbol)
50,52 Only 95 of these medals were bestowed in the ——
53 Indians
55 Titlers
57 It is awarded for heroism in ——
59 Term of address
60 Grimaces

Answer to Previous Puzzle

			T	H	U	N	D	E	R	B	O	L
		P	I	E		O	R	D	E	R		O
H	Y	M	N		B	A		S	A		G	R
A	L	E		P	L	Y		T	I	N		E
L	O		P	R	E			N	E	T		E
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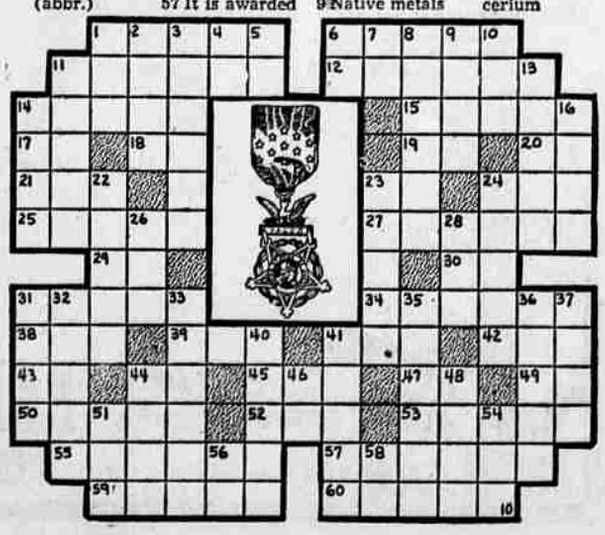
P	L	A	N	T						S	C	O
R	A		W	E	D				T	O	O	
I	C	E		A	R	T		S	U	N		W
M	E	R	E		A	R		E	L		T	A
	S	I	N		F	I	R	M	S		I	R
		E	D	I	T	O	R	I	A	L	L	Y

VERTICAL

1 Floor cleaning implement
2 Prince
3 Outspoken
4 Symbol for acetyl
5 Lone Scout (abbr.)
6 Him
7 Beast of burden
8 Cuddle
9 Native metals
10 Right Worshipful (abbr.)
11 Billiard shot
13 Surgical thread
14 Sailors
16 Peruse
22 Mongoloid
23 Maxim
24 Companies of musicians
26 Royal Naval Reserve (abbr.)
28 Extinct bird
31 Admit
32 Heavy cart
33 Blunt
35 Far away
36 Much bombed German city
37 Low haunts
40 Filled with news (colloq.)
41 Wild
44 Man's name
46 Ambary
48 Bustle
51 Short-napped fabric
54 Hawaiian birds
56 Registered nurse (abbr.)
58 Symbol for cerium



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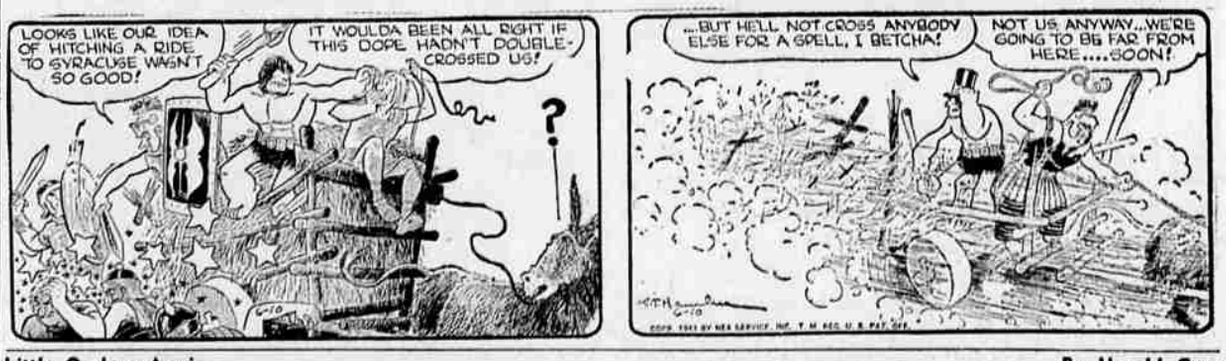
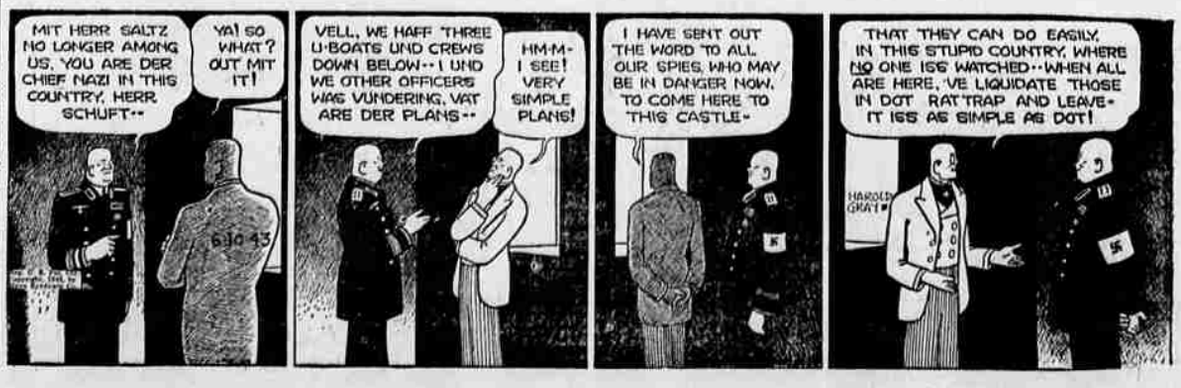
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