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Beyond The Law

By Mary Inlay Taylor

O'Hara smiled involuntarily. "Accidents will happen, sir." "Bum!" The sound was scornful. Macdonald had small use for accidental stupidity. He laid the flat of his hand on Johnson's written report and swung around, his keen eyes on the sergeant's face. "Did you happen to know Gharian, the fellow who got shot up by Nicky Creuse a month or so ago?"

O'Hara nodded. "Gayle was talking about that incident the other night," he responded. "Something about Nicky's sister, wasn't it? I heard he didn't want a worthless brute like Gharian for a brother-in-law. Was that it, sir?"

"The point is," replied Macdonald dryly, "Gharian was married."

O'Hara suppressed an exclamation of surprise and fell suddenly into an attitude of keen attention. Gayle had said something about Gharian being a prince of cad!

"Nicky Creuse had been a good girl; she was a trained nurse and never spared herself. She helped a lot of folks out in the wildest places. But Gharian pursued her—fascinated her, perhaps. Besides, she didn't know he was married at first. I should say she must have been pretty in a soft girlish way, though I never saw her alive."

The inspector perceived his subordinate's involuntary start and smiled grimly. "She and Gharian both are dead now; that's the crux of it. Johnson was out on the Hudson Bay trail, way up. There'd been a storm two days before and the snow was crusted. He came upon a Cree Indian with a dog team, going to Gharian's with a load of food and medicine. It seems that Nnon Creuse, as a trained nurse, never spared herself. She helped a lot of folks out in the wildest places. But Gharian pursued her—fascinated her, perhaps. Besides, she didn't know he was married at first. I should say she must have been pretty in a soft girlish way, though I never saw her alive."

The nurse persuaded the Cree to help her take care of him. The nurse declared that Nicky still was at Churchill, and as far as we can find out, that was the fact."

Macdonald paused, gancing down again at his notes before he went on. "Johnson says that he and the Cree rushed ahead fairly fast. It began to snow but there was no wind to cause drifting. They came through a bit of wood, spruce and balsam, mostly—ac like a screen, you know—and found the open space about a hundred yards from Gharian's cabin. Johnson says here: 'Ground rolling, a rise, snow piled till it hid the cabin. Cree ahead with his rifle. The leader lifted his nose and howled. They swerved to one side, all of 'em acting queer. I came up and stumbled over two bodies on the ice, a fresh sprinkling of snow, like blankets covering them.'"

Macdonald looked up sharply at O'Hara. "The Cree and Johnson scaped off the snow and found Gharian and the nurse both had been shot. Johnson had a pistol in Gharian's hand. Looks like a suicide pact, eh?"

"Rather. The man, bad as he was, was in love with a good girl. I take it she was already married. But you called it a double murder, sir?"

"That's what, O'Hara, no doubt, about it! It would be easy, too, if we didn't know for certain that Nicky Creuse was at Churchill about the time of the killing; that anyway he never would have killed his sister intentionally. The Cree also has a first class alibi. Of course, there's a chance that Nicky got there somehow, and that the girl was shot accidentally when she tried to save Gharian. There was a third person there, however, either at the time or just afterwards, before snow fell over the frozen ice crust. Johnson found confusing tracks, tried to follow them and lost the trail at the edge of a frozen creek. The fugitive took to the ice, there where triple tracks from the cabin showed a single track back to it, zig-zagging across the trail of Gharian and the girl."

"The pistol in Gharian's hand was a forty-five, he and the girl were hit with bullets from a twenty-five! It was murder. There may have been—probably was—a fight; two bullets had been fired from Gharian's forty-five, but he was a dead shot and it seems unlikely he would have failed to bring down his assailant."

"His previous wound was only half healed; the Cree doesn't think he was fit to travel, yet he yards from the cabin—and they said the nurse were a hundred went there about. It looks to me

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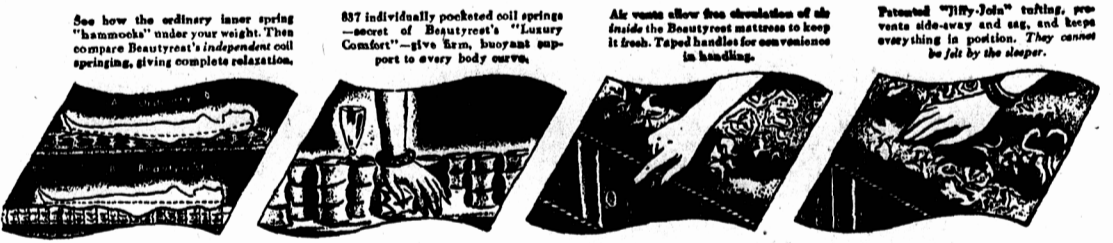


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as if Nicky Creuse must have sent someone to bring her back, and, in the quarrel, both were shot. There was a letter in the girl's pocket." (To be continued)

CAPE TOWN — (CP) — Plans for far-reaching reorganization of the Natal sugar industry, involving development under government supervision of the Pongola reserve in northern Zululand as a new area for expansion, were announced by the minister of lands.

In Memoriam

MRS. AMBROSE MITCHELL

On Saturday, August 30, the death of Mrs. Ambrose Mitchell occurred at the Charlottetown Hospital. Born at St. Peter's, P.E.I., 54 years ago, then moving to Souris, where she spent the greater part of her life with her husband and family. About twenty-five years ago, they moved to New Glasgow and later to Priestville where they have resided for the last ten years. She was a good neighbor and a friend to all. In her immediate family circle, where she was a loving and understanding mother, her loss will be greatly felt and her passing has left a gap that time can never fill. She is survived by her husband, Ambrose, four daughters, Catherine, Mrs. George Tattler, Marion, Mrs. Lewis Silliker, Jennie, Mrs. Fred Gratto, and her youngest daughter, Marie; also one son, Lewis. Several grandchildren and six brothers also survive. Deceased was a member of St. John the Baptist Church, from where her funeral was held on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd. Mass was held by the Rev. Father MacDonaid. Interment was in the church cemetery. The pallbearers were: John Burns, Hugh Lamont, Peter Guthrie, Jr., Irving MacKenzie, John Forbes, Harry Phelan. Many beautiful flowers and cards of sympathy testified to the high esteem in which she was held, while offering a message of

DEAD GRACKLE TIZZY TEASES GAZERS

sympathy, to the sorrowing family. They were as follows: Broken Circle—The Family. Pillow—Jen and Fred. Sprays—Malme and Lou; Doodle and George; Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Cameron; Mary and Ken Patton; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brooks; A. Friend; Ada and Harold Atwater; Mr. and Mrs. Mack MacConnell; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Malcolm and family. Wreaths—Jack Evans; Vera and Irving; Mr. and Mrs. John Forbes; Mrs. MacDonaid, Eileen and Peter. Cut Flowers—The Neighbors; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frost; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gratto; Mr. and Mrs. Clint Duncan; Ka and Kathleen MacLean. Mass Cards—Mrs. Margaret Lamont; Dora and Gilbert Tattler; Mrs. George Schrader; Joseph MacDonaid; Mr. and Mrs. James Gillan, Pease's Station, P. E. I.; Doodle and George. Cards of Sympathy—Vera and Irving; The Doyle's; Jack, Nellie and Evelyn Scott; Maybel, Bob, Leo; Mosee Priest; Bob and Bernard Don Gratto; Charlie Mactha; Lillian Rudland; Ella and Edson; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Clyburn; Mrs. Clara Wilson and Eileen; Mrs. Souris, P. E. I.; Kay MacLean; Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Marshall and Betty; Mrs. Bessie Purrier; Hilda and Bill Allen; Mr. and Mrs. John Peirine and family; Dorothy and Jack Rose; Billie Stapleton; Anna and Jack Clarke; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Foote; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Forbes; Bess and Mae; Mr. and Mrs. Frances Rogers and Family; Pictou; The Kelley Family, Cambridge, Mass.

TULSA, Okla., Sept. 19 — (CP) — Tulsa Oilers of the United States Hockey League announced today the outright purchase of Doug McMurdy, young defenceman, from Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League.

McMurdy, who played with the Oilers last year on option, from Toronto, formerly starred in Ontario junior circles and in 1944-45 won the Albert (Red) Tilson memorial trophy as the outstanding player in the Ontario Association's Junior "A" League.

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