

The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis
Long before these experiences,
Tuck had given up the romantic
vision that in one mad moment
human being may take another
life, having been before and be-
coming afterward a normal man
a woman, the victim of an inner
form. He knew that murder in
passion, like any murder, takes
years of preparation during
which a human mind goes through
a complicated evolution neces-
sary to bring it to the point when
murder can be done. What so
doubled him in regard to Mrs.

Hime was the fact that she was
totally unequipped to commit a
murder in sudden passion. She had
apparently none of the weak, self-
engagement which was a primary
requisite, lacking that complete
maladjustment which the Negroes
had suffered from. She was
not a woman to brood over trifles,
because she was too busy. Her life
had been one of enlarging opportu-
nities, created by herself out of
her own talent and effort.
Such a woman might still be
capable of cruelty, given suffic-
ient provocation — of which
there was no sign here. But there
he ran against the snag of her in-
telligence. Planning a crime, she
would certainly have planned it
better.

case as the hardest of all; the
"stumbling in the dark" period
which would be terminated by
some sudden new fact or some
twist of the old ones, but took pa-
tience to get through. He decided
to begin by finding whether any-
thing revealing or unusual had
occurred during that ten minutes
Hime and Moira Hastings had
spent together in the glass booth of
the busy, glittering cafe.
This time Moira Hastings was
not alone. She had on a severe
black suit with a short little jack-
et, white ruffles showing at
throat and wrist. On her feet were
black espadrilles. Her face was
very pale; since the smooth flaw-
lessness of makeup covered it, he
could only decide that she had
dressed her face also out of re-

spect for the dead man, choosing
a paler powder than the ripe, gold-
en tone she had worn the day be-
fore. The black suit was like a
costume; she was like a character
from some sleek drawing room
tragedy, wearing trousers after
death to assert her modernity,
but choosing dull black wool and
wistful white ruffles out of a nic-
k of taste. He noticed her clear,
light eyes, which made him think
of some semi-precious stone whose
name at the moment escaped him.
In the unlit-in living room,
Tuck found a slim, well-dressed
and exceedingly self-possessed
man of indeterminate years seat-
ed on the sofa pretending to look
over the most recent issue of
Time. He laid the magazine aside
and stood up as Miss Hastings and
Tuck entered from the hall. "This
is Mr. Tuck. He's from the
homicide squad."
Mr. Lester came forward to
shake Tuck's hand with a small,
tense hand full of energy. They
all sat down, facing one another.
Mr. Lester offered a pack of cig-
arettes with raised brows, was re-
fused, lighted one for himself and
said through a first exhalation of
smoke: "A bad business."

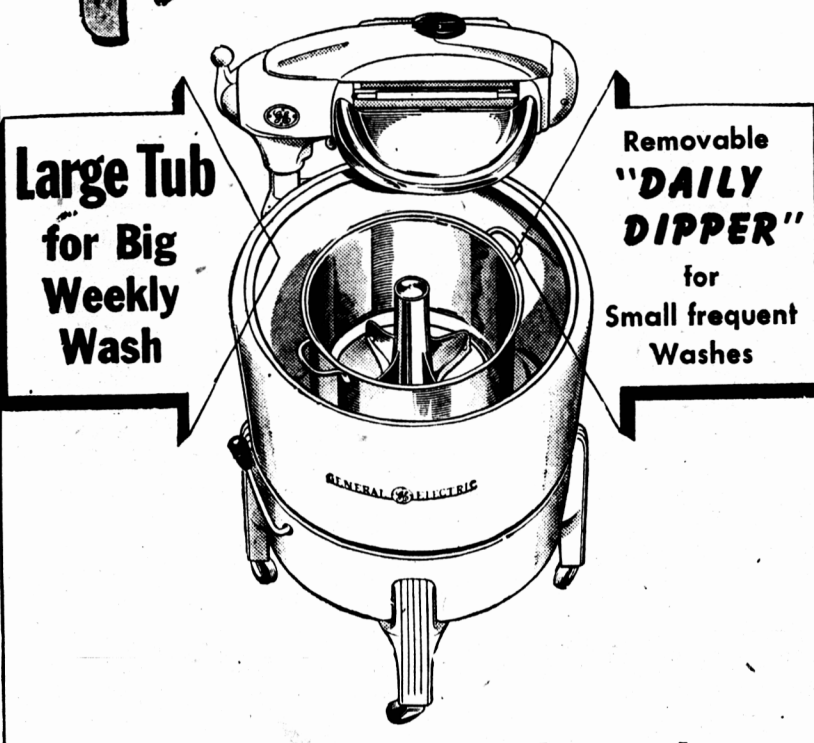
IN MEMORIAM

MRS. WARREN R. VESSEY
A feeling of sadness prevailed in
York and surrounding districts
when it became known that Mrs.
Warren Vessey, an esteemed resi-
dent of that place, had passed
away rather suddenly at the P. E.
I. Hospital after a few days' ill-
ness.
She was the daughter of the
late Abraham Brown and Eliza-
beth Vessey. She would have been
73 years old had she lived until
the 22nd of October.
Mrs. Vessey was of a quiet, un-
assuming manner, a loyal and sym-
pathetic neighbor, always charit-
able and kind to everyone, and
above all a loving mother and
wife. Her home and family were
always her first thought. She was
a valued member of York Metho-
dist Church, later the United
Church, a life member of the Wom-
en's Missionary Society, member
of W.C.T.U. and Alpha Institute,
and as long as her health permit-
ted was always present, where by
her good judgment and consistent
manner she won the respect of all.
She was also a faithful worker in
Red Cross work during the late
wars.
She leaves to mourn her pass-
ing her sorrowing husband who is
in indifferent health, by whom she
will be greatly missed; four sons
Leigh at home; Claude at Tryon;
Ivan and Stanley in Charlottetown;
also five grandchildren and
one great grandchild. One son
Reginald B., and a daughter, Mar-
garet Elizabeth, predeceased her.
There are also two brothers, Her-
bert Brown of Detroit, Mich., and
Mervyn, of Toronto.
Her funeral, which was largely
attended, took place on Oct. 21st.
A short service was held at the
home, and at the church a very
impressive service was conducted
by her pastor, Rev. John Douglas.
The hymns sung were "Jesus
The Lover Of My Soul", "Rock Of
Ages", and "Abide With Me".
Beautiful flowers, of which she
was very fond and loved so much
in life, covered her casket.
Her remains were tenderly laid
to rest beside her children. Fol-
lowing were the pallbearers: El-

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CANADA
PROVINCE OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
IN THE PROBATE COURT
The 6th Day of November A.D.
1951.
In Re Estate of MARY S. STEV-
ART late of Montague in King's
County in the said Province,
Single Woman, deceased, testate.
To the Sheriff of the County of
King's County or any Constable
or literate person within said
County
GREETING:
WHEREAS upon reading the
petition on file of Malcolm Mc-
Kinnon of Charlottetown in
Queen's County in said Province,
Attorney-at-law, Administrator cum
testamento annexo de bonis non
of the above named estate, he,
praying that a citation may be
issued for the purpose hereinafter
set forth: You are therefore
hereby required to cite all persons
interested in the said Estate to
be and appear before the Judge
present at a Probate Court to be
held in the Court House in Char-
lottetown in Queen's County, in
the said Province, on Monday the
10th day of December next com-
ing, at the hour of Eleven o'clock
forenoon of the same day to show
cause if any they can why the
Accounts of the said Estate should
not be passed and the Estate closed
and on motion of Malcolm Mc-
Kinnon Esquire, Proctor for said
Petitioner.
And it is hereby ordered that a
true copy hereof be forthwith
published in some newspaper pub-
lished in Charlottetown aforesaid
once in each week for at least
four consecutive weeks from the
date hereof and that a true copy
hereof be forthwith posted in the
following public places respective-
ly, namely, in the hall of the
Court House in Georgetown in
King's County aforesaid, at or
near the Store of Clark Brothers
in Montague aforesaid, and at or
near McGowan Motors Show Room
in Montague aforesaid so that all
persons interested in the said Es-
tate as aforesaid may have due
notice thereof.
WITNESS His Honour Harold
Leonard Palmer, Judge of the
said Probate Court at Charlot-
tewtown aforesaid, the day and year
first above written.
By the Court.
(Sgd.)
M. ELIZABETH WRIGHT,
L.S. Registrar.

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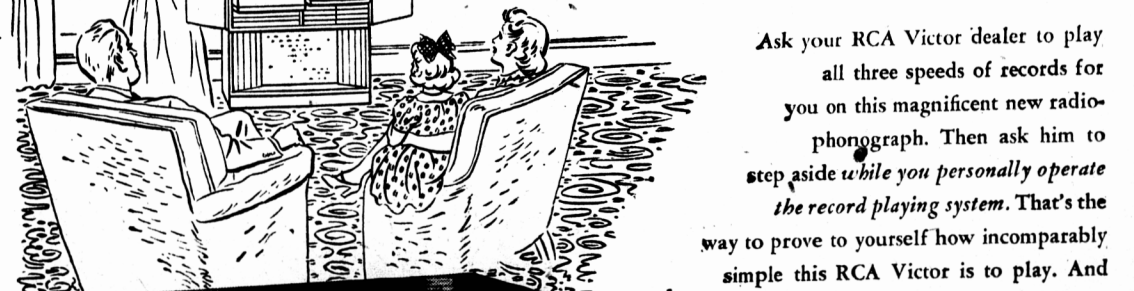
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