

The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE Part One

Molra's head, with its aureole of amber hair tilted back on the long throat. She rested the crown against the back of the chair and smiled a little. "Mr. Lester's trying to give you the impression that I'm a flowery and sensitive little thing, I'm not. I know that Mr. Hime's death did me out of the biggest chance I've had yet in this town. But I liked Mr. Hime. So now his death concerns me more than its effect on me. Later, I suppose, I'll get around to feeling bad about the part I might have had."

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO Part Two

Molra Hastings' head drew back a little on her long throat. She stared for a moment at Tuck as though she disliked him very much. Then she smiled. "I always tear things up. It's one of my little habits, isn't it, Louis?" "One of her little habits, repeated Lester, looking full at Tuck and nodding his head emphatically. "And now about Mrs. Hime. "Did you notice anything unusual in her behaviour when you had tea with her on Thursday afternoon?" "I had never met Mrs. Hime before, so I couldn't really say," said Molra Hastings carefully. "The first thing she said when she met me at the door was 'But you are terribly pretty, my dear.' "What I really went up there to see her about was the part. Mr. Hime had told me quite frankly that she was against my getting it. I got thinking, and decided that after all she'd probably only seen me as that gussy schoolgirl Clarissa. I felt, in my innocence, that if I did a scene from 'Ina' and showed her I could handle something more mature, she'd withdraw her objections. I realized that she had great influence on her husband, of course. Her voice became hard. "But it didn't work out quite that way. "There was calm authority in her tone when she said, after a brief pause: 'It didn't take me long to realize that Mrs. Hime was hideously jealous of me.' Louis Lester said, quickly and brightly: "Oh, come now, Molra. Those are hard words. I am sure Mr. Tuck won't..." "She was jealous of me," said Molra Hastings. Impeccably, Tuck remembered the name of the jewel of which her eyes had reminded him. Aquamarine. Her voice became more casual. "I don't think Mrs. Hime actually realized this. She thought that what she called my inexperience was her real reason for being against me." She brooded on this for a moment, and then sat up in her chair. Tuck, her small hands gripping the arms of the chair, she said: "I've read several of Mrs. Hime's stories, in addition to 'Ina Hart,' and I've noticed a funny thing. A very funny thing." She lowered her voice so that it was only a whisper. "She hates beautiful women. In all her stories it is the pretty women who have the black hearts. In back of their faces there is always something twisted, and dangerous. Something wrong." Louis Lester's voice was loud, bright and angry. "Molra took some freshman psychology once, and she never got over it," he said. Molra Hastings' head turned towards her agent in a snakelike movement, smooth and deadly. Her lips closed thin over what she wanted to say to him. Tuck stood up. Lester stood up. Slowly, Molra Hastings stood up. She spread her fine slim hands out helplessly at either side of the slenderly curved hips in the slim black trousers. Her eyes looked up at Tuck. She was giving herself to his approval for an instant. Then she dropped and jammed the other into her trouser pocket. "Oh, what the heck," she said easily. "I don't hold it against her. I've had it before, and I'll have it again, jealously from women."

Annual Meeting Stanhope W.I.

The annual meeting of the Stanhope Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Keith Douglas, on November 6th. The president opened the meeting by having the Ode sung, followed by the "Collect" repeated in unison. Roll call was answered by 19 members paying their fees, and there was one visitor present. The minutes of the last annual and regular meetings were approved, read and signed. The president thanked all the members for their help during the year, and the treasurer gave the financial statement, which showed a balance of \$34.94. The sick committee reported on calls made, and the school committee reported the need of paper towels, which are to be purchased. New committees were appointed as follows: Mrs. Malcolm MacLaughlin and Mrs. Pat Horgan; school, Mrs. Harry Lawson. Correspondence was read and discussed, and it was decided to appoint lunch committees for each meeting in the future. Mrs. Ray Carr and Mrs. Bruce Ellis were appointed for the December meeting. Mrs. Ray Carr then invited members to her home to finish the quilt on Monday, Nov. 12th. The following officers were then elected for the coming year: after him, Tuck stood outside Molra Hastings' apartment, listening. He could just hear Lester say: "For Pete's sake, Molra! Keep out of this! It'll ruin you! I already told you that!" There was a silence. Then Molra Hastings spoke in a choked voice. "She killed him, Louis. I know it. I know it."

Pisquid West W.I. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Pisquid West Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. John Ostridge with an attendance of nine members and two visitors. The president was in the chair and the meeting opened with the singing of the Institute Ode and repeating Creed in unison. Roll call was answered by each member paying membership fees. Minutes of last annual and regular meeting were read and approved, and reports of the different committees were heard and new ones appointed. The secretary's report on the year's work included: Donations to T.B. League, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Cancer Campaign, and gifts for children at Christmas. Receipts for the year, \$395.20. President: Mrs. Bruce Ellis. Vice-Pres. Mrs. Joseph Robinson Jr. Secretary: Mrs. John Misener. Treasurer: Mrs. Harry Lawson. Directors: Mrs. Herbert Kelly, Mrs. Thomas McCabe, and Mrs. Mervyn Robinson. Auditors: Mrs. Malcolm MacLaughlin and Mrs. Harry MacLaughlin. Christmas cards were then distributed and an amount of \$12.83 was added to the funds. Mrs. Herbert Kelly kindly invited the members for the December meeting, with roll call to be answered by an exchange of Christmas gifts, to the value of 30 cents. The singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close, and a social hour was enjoyed.

Georgetown and Vicinity

Mr. Leslie Hunter of Bridgetown and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Campbell of Poplar Point attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies on Sunday, Nov. 11th. Miss Eileen Helen MacConnell, student nurse at the Prince Edward Island Hospital, was a weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. B. MacConnell. Miss Phyllis White and her mother, Mrs. William White, motored from Borden during the weekend and were guests of relatives in Georgetown. Miss Louise Murphy of De Blois Bros., Charlottetown spent the Remembrance Day weekend as the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Murphy, Richmond Street. Mr. Amos Lavandier arrived in Georgetown last week from the

State of Maine

Mr. Lavandier will visit for a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Lavandier before returning by car to the U. S. A. Mr. Albert Landry and Mr. Tommy Huestis of Summerside motored to Georgetown last week, where they visited Mr. Landry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Landry. The Georgetown School children travelled by trucks to the city on Friday, Nov. 9th, to see Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. The children were under the care and supervision of several of the teachers. Mr. and Mrs. James H. Skinner of Bridgetown attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Georgetown on Sunday, Nov. 11th. Mr. Skinner has not missed a Remembrance Day ceremony since the close of the 1914-18 war. Mrs. Gerald Butler and two children, who have been visiting in Georgetown as the guests of Mrs. Butler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. George, Sr., left last week to return to their home in Saint John, N. B. Mrs. H. P. George, Sr., travelled with Mrs. Butler to Saint John, where she will be her guest. Ordinary Seaman Harold Dicks paid a day's visit to his parents, Captain and Mrs. Nelson Dicks last week. Harold is a member of the crew of the light cruiser, H. M. C. S. Ontario, which took their Royal Highnesses to Sydney from Charlottetown. Harold was a member of the ship's Royal Guard of Honor. COMPLETED WORK Christopher Columbus made four voyages to America before reaching the Isthmus of Panama in 1504.

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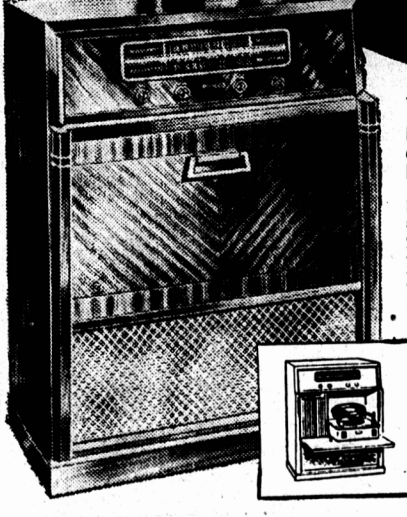
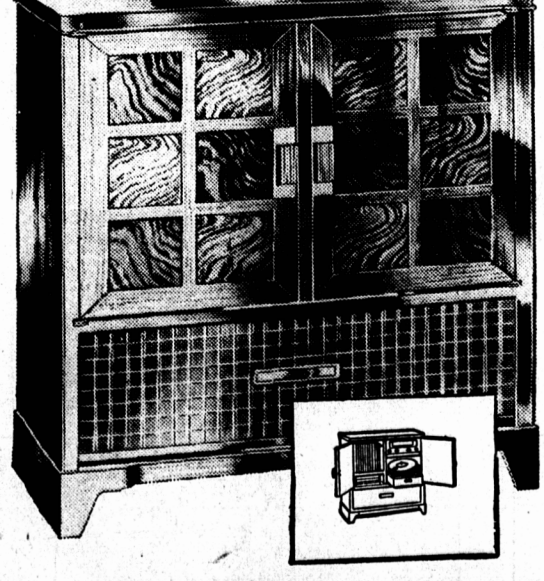
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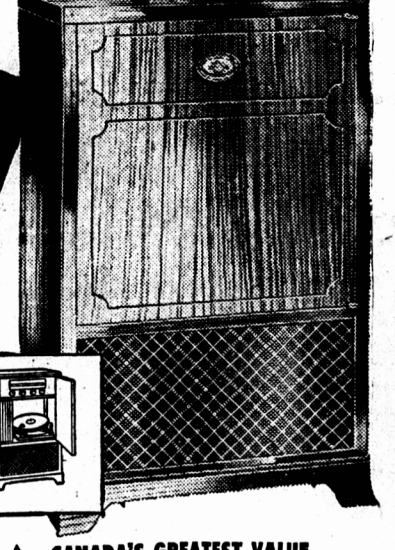
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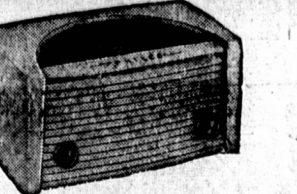
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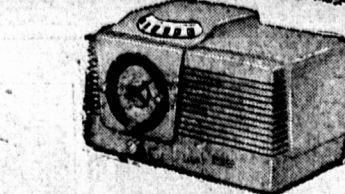
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