

CRESCENT CARNIVAL

FRANCES PARKISON KEYES

(Continued)

The old yellow-clapboard clubhouse, rising up over the water, looked very pretty when they went into it. Julia Beal's party, a large one, was already assembled at the table next to Stella's, so Stella went over to speak to Drew for a moment, to tell him it would be all right about Splendida. He was acting as host for Julia, sitting at the big round table, and Mrs. Harold Baird, the beautiful bride everyone was talking about, was sitting at his right, because Julia's party was being given in her honor. Stella felt as if Drew were also very much aware of Evelyn's beauty—so superconscious of it, indeed, that he did not want anything to interrupt his enjoyment of it, now even a swift word with an old friend. Of course Drew said

he was delighted but, just the same, in spite of his lawless manner, she knew he would rather have had her wait to tell him later in the evening when she came to dance with her. Stella had grown so fond of Drew that she hated to think Evelyn's beauty could create even the smallest sort of strain or estrangement between them. But she did not have much time to brood over that at the moment. It was a rackety party, anyway, not conducive to serious thought. When seven hundred people were snapping paper caps and jingling rattles and ringing bells, you did well if you could concentrate on the song you were going to sing pretty soon in the old-fashioned skit, and on the few graceful words you would have to say into the loudspeaker when the Commodore gave you your cup, and so on. Especially if all the time you were thinking terribly hard about your boy friend and that he wasn't there with you. But in spite of Stella's problems, Evelyn and her beauty intruded themselves on her notice

very soon again, after all. For the minute the band really got into action, Stella saw that Drew was on his feet and that Evelyn was, too, before anyone else at their table or any other had moved. They danced off together, laughing into each other's eyes and forgetting, apparently, all about Julia, with whom Drew, according to an unwritten law, should have had the first dance, not to mention Harold Baird, with whom, according to much more solidly established custom, Evelyn should have had it. Stella turned her head away so that she would not see them laughing into each other's eyes as they danced very close together; then, just as Gail signaled to her that they ought to be up and about it themselves, one of the waiters came and told her she was wanted on the telephone— that Baton Rouge was calling. Gail spoke to her almost crossly. "You can't go to the telephone now, Stella. You know it's way over on the other side of the lounge." "I've got to take this call. Let me go, Gail."

"You don't suppose I'm going to let you strike out by yourself, do you, since you insist on going? If you stalked out on me, right at the beginning of a dance like that, everyone would think we'd had a quarrel or something." "Oh, for the luva-mike! Come along then! But you don't need to stand with your ear glued to the outside of the booth when we get there." It seemed to Gail that Stella was fairly flying across acres of slippery floor, dragging him after her, since he would not let her go without him. Stella had finally shaken herself free from him; she had gone into the telephone booth and banged the door after her. Gail did not stand with his ear glued to the telephone booth, but he was near enough to it to see her face brighten as she picked up the receiver. Then the expression changed to one of horror, though the excitement grew. She cried out once, in unbelieving agitation. After that she listened intently, asking only a few terse, terse questions from the fragments of which Gail could make

neither rhyme nor reason. When she came out of the booth at last, she started straight down the corridor toward the lobby at the same flying pace with which she had crossed it before, so that Gail had to catch hold of her arm to keep up with her. And again she whipped out her words in short, sharp, alarming sentences. "Huey Long's been shot. In the Capitol corridor, between the House and Senate. By a Dr. Weiss. Who's already been polished off by Huey's bodyguard. Huey's in a bad way himself. Raoul was in the corridor. He saw it all happen. He thinks he was the first person to get to a telephone." They had reached the small cubbyhole of the club secretary in their mad dash back to the ballroom. Stella stopped and hailed that long-suffering and thunderstruck functionary. "Huey Long's just been shot," she said. He's probably dying. I've had an official message from Baton Rouge. Representative Bienvenu, of Vermilion Parish, who telephoned me, thought you'd prob-

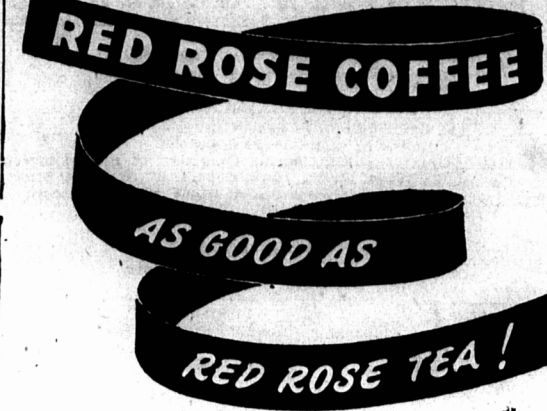
ably want it announced over the loudspeaker in the ballroom." She spoke proudly, after the manner of a trusted messenger to whom an important task has been confided and who is eager to show that the confidence is well placed. (To be Continued)

WINSLOE NORTH W.I.

Mrs. Albert Younker was hostess to the Winsloe North Women's Institute on March 13.

The meeting opened with the singing of the Institute Ode, followed by repeating the creed in unison. Roll call was answered by six members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed. A letter was read from the Buyers Benefit Club regarding a special offer on the purchase of knitting yarn, also a letter from the supervisor, stating that a teacher of Highland dancing was now available for those interested in this training for their children. It was decided that Mrs. Arnett Shaw and Mrs. Claude Craswell see about inviting a play.



The sewing received from the Red Cross was then distributed among the members. Collection for the evening amounted to 90c.

The April meeting to be held in the school. The lunch committee: Mrs. Claude Craswell, Mrs. Leith Carter and Miss Winnie Cudmore.

The meeting closed with the "King" after which a delicious lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge.

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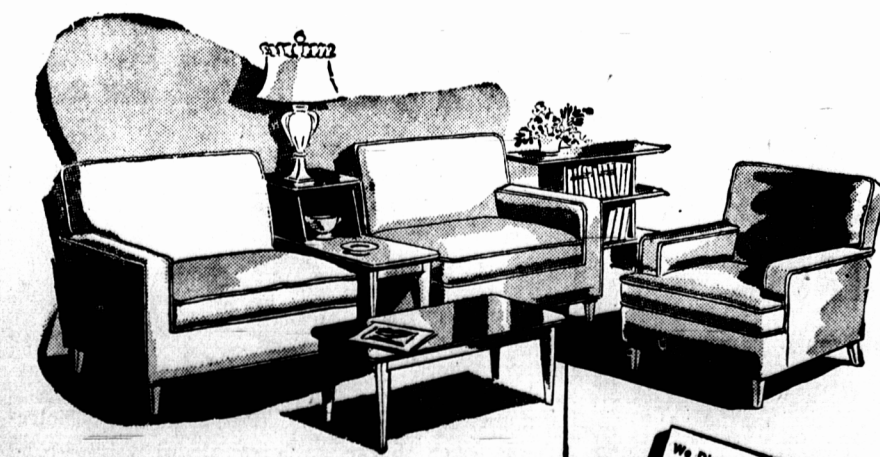
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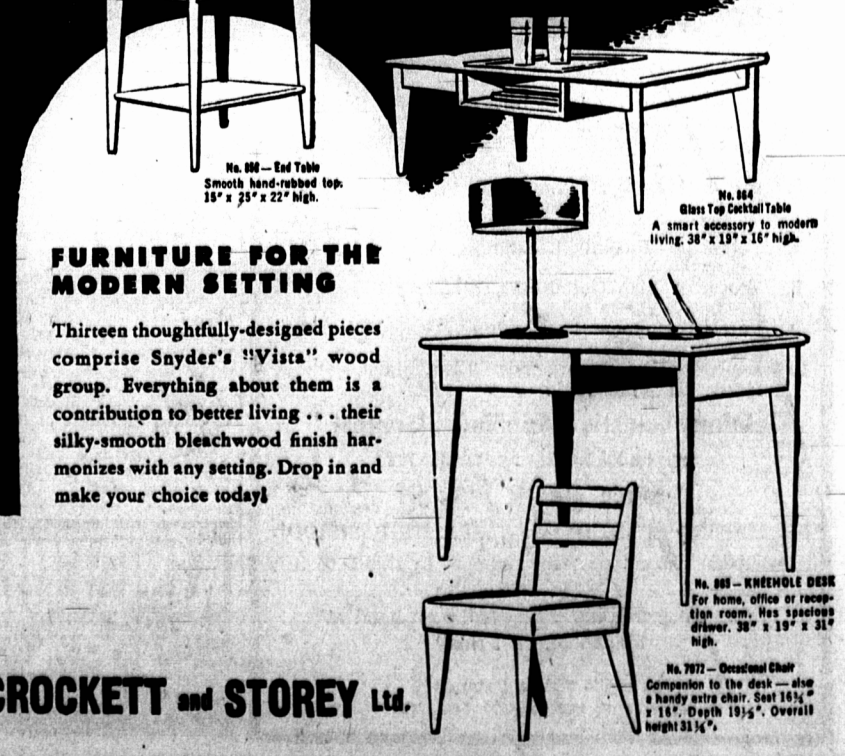
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