

The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE Part Two

"I see you were married when?" "In 1925. We went to the same school. We were—well, sort of sweethearts. I went on to business school and got a job as stenographer in a packing house—this was in Chicago—and he worked in the packing shed. He was saving enough money for college. We got married at the end of his freshman year."

"What made you come here?" "Well, the girls at the club I belong to were having our annual dinner. We go to Chintatown, oh, and then we go to an early show, and then a bridge club, really, only of course we've been knitting since the war. Well, at dinner one of the women mentioned the death of a producer named Albert Hime, and how she thought the wife must have done it from what she'd read in the papers. Well, right away I knew that must be my Albert. Not only from the name (it's an odd one) but from the fact that he was always so interested in that sort of thing in college he directed a lot of student plays. I went to them and they were certainly good—real deep stuff, you know, by people like Shaw."

"She stopped expectantly. Not knowing what else to do, Tuck nodded encouragingly. "Well, all through the show—Bette Davis, my, she's wonderful—I kept thinking of Albert, and him being dead, and what this friend of mine had said about the wife doing it. After the show we went to the Pig'n Whistle for sodas and sundaes, and so I told the girls about how I had been married once to Albert. My, they were excited. Then I asked them whether they thought it was really my duty and so I decided I would. I came right straight here, because I knew if I waited and got thinking it over and talked about it with George, I'd never in this world come. George is so cautious. Several of the girls offered to come down

with me, but I didn't let them, because I knew they'd just be in the way. Hetty Corcoran—she's been president for four years running—was green. She always likes to be the whole show."

Mrs. Watt, Tuck saw, had had Her Moment. "And what do you know of Mr. Hime that might throw some light on his death?" he asked.

Mrs. Watt drew herself up very straight. "Just this," she said. "His wife didn't kill him."

"How do you know that?" "Mrs. Watt deflated just a little as she sought for reasons. "Well, I KNOW Albert. I mean, we were married almost three years altogether, and he's not that sort of man. I mean, for someone to kill you, you've got to have something wrong with you. Unless a woman's stark, raving crazy, she doesn't just go and kill her husband without any reason. In fact, no one kills a person without any reason. Albert was—well, he didn't have a mean bone in his body. You just couldn't get mad at him. He always made you feel like a queen."

"Stick with me, Glad," he'd said, "and you'll be wearing diamonds and drinking champagne by the bucket." He was always wanting to do nice things for you. Of course, he didn't have any money then, none at all. He used up what he saved from his job at the packing plant for tuition and books and all at the university. We just had my salary and a little he picked up from a Saturday job as a salesman, but out of that little bit of money he always saved out enough to bring me something nice—a box of candy, or a gardenia—something.

"Still," said Tuck, "you did divorce him, didn't you?" Mrs. Watt's eyes looked back over the years. "You know how young girls are. I was crazy for pretty clothes, and it made me awfully mean sometimes. Albert always pointed out that if I'd just been patient until he finished college and got a start I'd have these things, a lot more than if I had just married one of the boys at the plant who'd spend the rest of their lives slaughtering pigs for a living. But I was impatient, and selfish. The way girls are. I used to get worked up at him. He was always so patient, always saw my side of

Farm Prices & Market Report

Following are excerpts from the weekly marketing report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, prepared by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister:

The latest quotations from the Province of Nova Scotia show that butter has advanced one cent per pound and the wholesale price is now 67c delivered Halifax, local jobbing 69c. In New Brunswick a similar advance became effective Monday, November 26, wholesale quotations from that province at present being 67c delivered, with local jobbing 69c. In order to keep in line with the above mentioned prices in the other two provinces the price in Prince Edward Island advanced also one cent per pound, the wholesale for prints at 65½c delivered Charlottetown, local jobbing 67c.

Feeds

A late harvest has shortened normal fall movement. Substantial quantities of grain remain un-

it. The divorce was my fault, really. I'd kept telling myself that if I could stick it out until he graduated I'd get my reward. But then he just went on at the store as a full-time salesman. Of course, I see now that he had to get some cash together before he could go to New York and try to get into the theatrical world, but at the time it was a letdown. That's when I got real mean. I don't think I've ever been so mean to anyone. He was just as nice as always until I made a nasty remark about how maybe he wasn't such a genius as he'd thought. Then he got mad at me. We had real words and it all ended up that I got talking of divorcing him, and then thinking about really doing it. In a way, this broke Albert's heart. He was very quiet after that, and said he'd never stand in the way of me doing anything I thought best for me."

To be continued

threshed. There are marked increases in feed grains. Some sections in the West are short of feed, particularly in Alberta where supplies are still under snow. Grass most a record and over 33% of the 1950-51 level. Preference in movement, however, must be given milling wheat. The export market for oats and barley is firm. Taking into consideration these known factors the prices of coarse grains will undoubtedly remain firm until at least the opening of navigation next spring.

The following are our quotations on feeds at today's levels:

Table with columns: Grade, Price carload, Small bagged, Island Oats. Rows include Oats, Barley, Wheat, Bran, Oilmeal, Fishmeal, Concentrate, and Corn.

Livestock

Hog prices are steady at Moncton and Charlottetown, but sows are down \$1.00 at Moncton and \$1.50 at Charlottetown. At Charlottetown the lower grades of cattle are revised slightly downward, but calves are steady. All other livestock prices and quotations are steady with last week.

Hogs at Moncton—Grade A 28.50; Grade B1 28.10; No. 1 sows 22.50; No. 2 sows 21.50; hot dressed weight delivered.

Hogs at Charlottetown—F. O. B. country points. Grade A 27.50; Grade B1 27.10; No. 1 sows 21.50; No. 2 sows 20.50.

Cattle at Moncton—Delivered to plant. Steers: Up to 1,000 lbs. Choice 29.00 to 30.50; Good 28.00 to 28.50; Medium 26.00 to 26.50; Common 20.00 to 23.00. Over 1,000 lbs. Choice 29.00 to 30.50; Good 28.00 to 28.50; Medium 25.50 to 27.00; Common 21.00 to 23.50. Heifers: Choice 28.00 to 29.00; Good 27.00 to 27.50; Medium 24.00 to 26.00; Common 19.00 to 22.00. Sows: Good 22.00 to 23.00; Medium 20.00 to 21.00; Common 18.00 to 19.00. Canners and cutters 15.50 to 17.00. Bulls: Good 23.00 to 24.50; medium 21.00 to 22.50; Common 19.00 to 20.00.

The total production of protein feeds in Canada is about 40,000 tons higher than in 1950, but prices are out of sight. The export demand for oils has been intensified. Poor harvesting weather has affected the market to a considerable extent, and a lower production in Argentina has been a contributory influence. Flax prices have jumped 20% since the first of this month, and it would appear as if not only flax protein supplements, but linseed oil and paints will go to higher levels.

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Table with columns: Grade, Price carload, Small bagged, Island Oats. Rows include Oats, Barley, Wheat, Bran, Oilmeal, Fishmeal, Concentrate, and Corn.

Cattle at Charlottetown—Delivered at plant. Steers: Good 27.00 to 27.50; Medium 26.00 to 26.50; Common 20.00 to 24.00. Heifers: Good 26.50 to 27.00; Medium 25.50 to 26.00; Common 20.00 to 23.00. Cows: Good 20.00 to 21.00; Medium 19.00 to 20.00; Common 17.00 to 19.00. Canners and cutters 14.00 to 16.00; Bulls: Good 22.00 to 23.00; Medium 21.00 to 22.00; Common 18.00 to 20.00.

Calves at Moncton—Delivered to plant. Choice 27.00 to 28.00; Good 25.00 to 26.50; Medium 23.00 to 24.00; Common 19.00 to 21.00; Grass-

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Calves at Charlottetown—Delivered to plant. Good and choice 26.00 to 27.00; Medium 24.00 to 25.00; Common 22.00 to 24.00; Grassers 17.00 to 18.00. Sheep at Moncton—Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, Good 13.50 to 16.00; Medium 10.50 to 13.00; Common 8.00 to 10.00. Rail grade prices, 36.00 for A Grade, up to 70 lbs.

Sheep at Charlottetown—Delivered. Live grade quotations, Good 13.00 to 14.00; Medium 10.00 to 12.00; Common 5.00 to 8.00. Rail grade prices 31.00 for A Grade up to 70 lbs.

Lambs at Moncton—Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, good spring lambs, 27.00 to 27.50; Medium 26.00 to 27.00; Common 16.00 to 20.00. Rail grade prices for A's delivered, 64.00, up to 46 lbs. Lambs at Charlottetown—Delivered. Live grade quotations, Good and Choice 27.00 to 28.00; Medium 26.00 to 27.00; Common 14.00 to 20.00.

20.00. Rail grade prices for A's up to 46 lbs, 62.00.

Potatoes

Because of the fact that Maritime markets are fairly well supplied at the moment there has been a slightly easier trend to the potato market during the past several days. A number of carloads

of Maine potatoes have appeared on the Montreal and Toronto markets, and this has also been responsible for a slightly easier trend there. Since the start of the shipping season there has been a steady advance in potato values each week, and this is the first minor price recession that we have

Continued on page 14

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