

### The Birthday Murder

By Lange Lewis  
CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO  
Part One

At noon on Sunday Victoria was sitting on the brilliant blue mat of the sunchair on the balcony, wearing a brief sunsuit of the same vivid blue. From the kitchen window above where she lay came the sound of Haze! humming as she ironed; from the living room came the large noises of the New York Philharmonic concert. Victoria lay flat, her arms crossed on her forehead to make a cave of shadow for her eyes, thinking nothing, only half hearing, only half alive. The warm sun poured down like melted butter; it seemed to permeate the tissues of her body, to go as deep as the bones. Tension ebbed, thoughts faded before they took shape. There was nothing in the world but glowing heat of which she had become a part.



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### Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Everybody has two chances—one of getting sick and one of not. If you get sick, you have two chances, one of getting well, and one of not. If you die you still have two chances!

A strange accident happened recently on the farm of Cameron McTaggart, Middlesex County, Ontario, when a straw stack collapsed and buried six valuable steers that were sleeping beside it. All six were dead when dug out from the straw pile, returning a loss to their owner of \$1,800.

In the autumn of 1850, ten pairs of English sparrows were released at Halifax, in the hope that they would multiply and aid in the destruction of a moth that was damaging shade and forest trees. Today the English sparrow is found right across the American continent, all descendants of the 20 birds that were brought to this continent one century ago.

Census figures in 1901 placed the area in Canada under field crops of 19,800,000 acres. By 1941 the figure rose 55,800,000 acres under crop. The next census gave an acreage of 62,000,000, and it will be interesting to learn what further crop acreage will be revealed in the census taken on June last.

Information Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, reports that a new honey-fruit spread is finding its way to the U.S.A. It is made from concentrated fruit juice or puree mixed with honey which provides sweetening and makes the product spread.

Here's the 10 modern commandments to be kept in mind if you have passed your 40th birthday: Keep slim, drink plenty of milk and water. Try new foods. Make new friends. Get out in the fresh air often. Limit the intake of fatty foods. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables. Don't worry and don't lose your temper. Incidentally, temper is one thing that never spoils by keeping.

Distillation of perfume is an ancient art. In 1500 B.C. perfumed water was poured over the hands of guests at these fabulous banquets of which we read.

The trick of grafting is mentioned by Phileas as a common practice long before his time. By grafting, cultivating, etc., the humble apple has come a long way from its bush and crabbed ancestry.

The apple was a characteristic fruit of Britain for centuries and its early cultivation was carried on almost wholly by the clergy.

The title of "Apple King of the World" was bestowed upon Frederick Willhouse, of Kansas, who owned the largest and most profitable apple orchard in the world, comprising at the time of his death 1600 acres. His first crop yielded 1,500 bushels from 537 acres. Ten years later his yield was 79,710 bushels, minus "culls". It required 200 cars to move the huge crop to Eastern markets.

The native women of Mexico don't have to worry about soap. When wash day rolls around they bundle their dirty clothes into a tub, take a piece of soap from the soap plant and put it in the water. Presto! the water forms suds like soap and the washing gets under way.

The root is white, beet-shaped, and about 6 in. long. It will clean the most delicate fabrics—without injury.

There's an English village made entirely of old railway cars, even the chapel being composed of four horse trucks. Population: 1000. Valuation: \$8,000. This unique village has no school, nor other public building.

Then there's the village Buckland which has the distinction of having no public houses, no policemen, no medics, no ministers and no paupers.

This English village has a population of 100 souls and is owned by a family named Bastard. All the inhabitants of Buckland are pensioned by the owner of the estate.

Anderson Walker, an old Negro slave in Virginia, continued to live in a state of servitude for more than a quarter of a century after the emancipation of the Negroes by the war. Why? Because he wished to serve his old master until death parted them.

A day is not always made up of 24 hours as most of us believe. The word day is frequently used as merely the antithesis to night. Even the law distinguishes between dies naturalis, and dies artificiales.

Astronomers, too, reckon their own days: The solar day, ranging from about half a minute under to the same amount over 24 hours at different times of the year; the mean solar day, being our common day of 24 hours; the lunar day of nearly 25 hours; and the sidereal day of about four seconds short of 24 hours.

But to get back to the Natural Day. In all places it does not mean a day of 24 hours. Near the north and south poles, strange phenomena occur. For example: at Wandersburg, Norway, the day lasts from May 21 to July 22 without interruption; and at Spitzbergen, the longest day contains 3 1/2 months!

A Stockholm longest day has 16 1/2 hours; at Danzig, the longest day has 17 hours, and the shortest seven. At Berlin and London, the longest day has 16 1/2 hours, the shortest only 8.

Just when the day begins is a matter of controversy. The Jews and Babylonians reckoned their day from sunrise. The people of Athens at sunset; in Italy the day began at noon, while the ancient Egyptians and Romans began their day at midnight. We who live in North America still follow this custom—that is, our day begins as soon as the clock has struck midnight of the preceding day.



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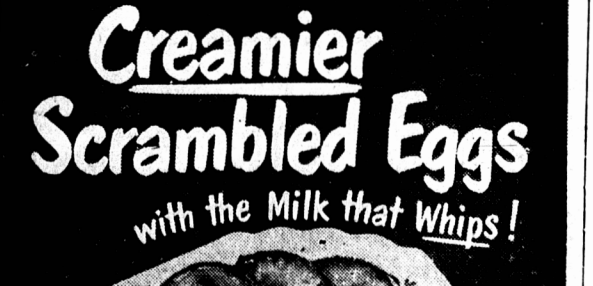
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- 1 cup Kellogg's ALL-BRAN
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 tbsp. shortening
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- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 egg
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon (if desired)

- Measure first 4 ingredients into bowl. Add water, stir till shortening melts. Add egg; beat well.
- Sift together flour, soda, salt, cinnamon; add to All-Bran mixture, stirring only until combined.
- Fill 2 greased baked bean cans 2/3 full. Bake in preheated mod. oven (350°F.) 45 min. Yield: 2 loaves. Or use 8 x 8-in. pan. Bake in mod. oven 35 min. Yield: 1 loaf. Makes delicious luncheon sandwiches.



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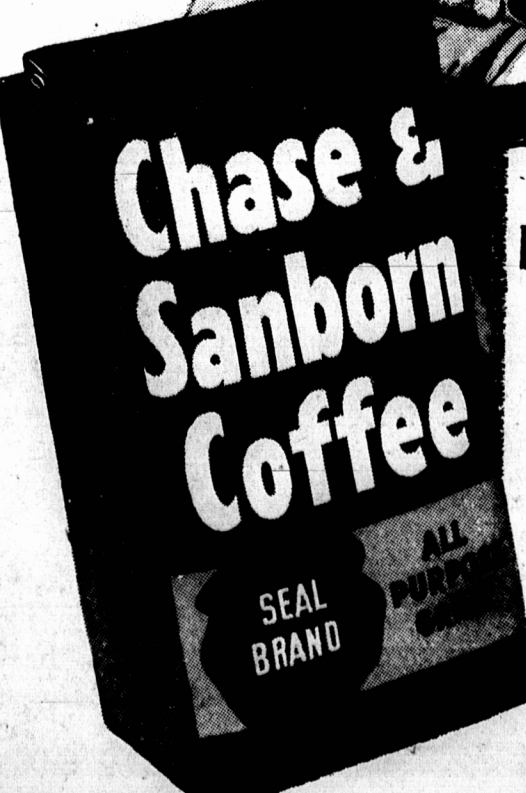
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