

"Murder!" They Cried

By DOROTHY STALEY

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XXV
DINNER that night was a most uncomfortable affair. There was so much to be said; so little we could talk about. Sentences were left suspended in mid-air; questions went unanswered, indeed, unheard. Conversation turned by its own weight to the question of the twins and Mr. Willson finally counseled patience. He felt that the twins were in good hands and that if we waited, that angle might solve itself. Fletch agreed with him and while I don't think my Miss Jenny did, she held her tongue. I fully agreed with Mr. Willson. With all her faults, and in spite of the fact that she was not very maternal, Philippa, I was sure, had done nothing that would harm the twins. Mr. Willson at that point voiced the same opinion, and Uncle Andrew said, "Why would she? They were money in the bank for her."
The district attorney's office called shortly after dinner to ask Fletch and Mr. Willson to come down there. It was something about releasing Philippa's body. When they came back, they had a copy of the Sun. Daniel Corliss had gathered up his staff and gotten out a paper. "A special Willson edition," Fletch said bitterly.
The whole story was there down the last detail of Dru's accompanying Fletch on a nocturnal automobile ride. And side by side with the current event was practically a reprint of the old newspaper stories of May 18, 1917.
I was glad that my Miss Jenny and Betsy and Dru had gone upstairs to write letters and do some of the other necessary things. I was going to burn the paper but Mr. Willson stopped me. "Might

as well let them see it some time, Nana. Everybody else has seen it, and it's better that we tell them what to expect."
It wasn't until that moment that I wondered how a man like Stephen Willson faced telling his children the story he had had to tell them, or that I remembered his diffidence at dinner. If indeed we are punished on this earth for those things we are taught are wrong, then Stephen Willson had indeed been scourged that day.
I went up to the little sitting room off my bedroom. I was very weary, but I didn't want to go to bed. I think I was reluctant to have the day whose troubles I knew pass on to be replaced by the tomorrow about whose worries and problems I knew nothing. So I got out my knitting and the horrible thought of the morning returned. Were we knitting while someone rode to meet death? It was glad when Betsy came in and I could lay it aside.
She fiddled around with the small figures on the bookshelves in the corner and made a lot of remarks. "It's hot." "I always liked this shepherd boy, Nana." It took her some time to ask the question she had come to ask.
She put a little bisque figurine down carefully and with her back still toward me said, "Am I very much like my mother, Nana, when she was young?"
"No," I answered. "You look more like your father's people."
"I don't mean that, Nana. Do I act like her? Do I think like her?"
"Yes," I said hesitatingly, "to some extent. She was livelier, and I think more determined. But otherwise, I think, you're like her."
"I'm glad," she answered. "I hoped I was."

"You have quite a bit of your father's reserve," I added.
"My father," she said. All this time she had her back to me, and she was holding tightly to the edge of the bookcase. "I think my father is a very wonderful man; he's strong and good, and so is Fletch. I'm glad they're mine."
SHE swung around and faced me. "I thought for a moment this afternoon I would die, Nana."
"Yes, Betsy," I replied. "I know."
"It was silly, Nana." Her voice was close to breaking. "But all I could think of was sledding once with Fletch and Travers. I was sandwiched between them on the big bob-sled and we seemed to be flying through space, but I felt so safe between them. I belonged to them and they were mine and nothing could hurt the three of us while we were together like that. But if one of them... It was as if all security were being taken from me."
I said nothing and she walked to the window and looked out. "There are lights in the rock garden, Nana," she said idly. "I suppose they will be searching there all night."
Almost without stopping for breath, she said, "What was he like, Nana?"
"I don't need to tell you, do I, Betsy?"
She shook her head. "No, Nana. I know." She came and laid her face against the top of my head for a moment. "Don't worry about me, Nana. I'll be all right."
She left the room quickly and I didn't try to stop her. A good cry very often is like a sudden summer storm. It clears the atmosphere.
And then I wished I hadn't thought of summer storms.
(To Be Continued)

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Editor's Note: Annually for the past 15 years, Mr. McKenney has selected the outstanding players of the year for his All-America team. We think you will agree he has selected a truly All-America card team. This is the first of six articles on his selections.

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY
America's Card Authority
As captain of my All-America team this year, I name Maj. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, former chief of staff of the Fifth Army, and later of the Fifteenth Army Division. It was he who got the autographs of

▲10983	▲652
▲95	▲J1083
▲A7	▲KJ93
▲QJ107	▲54
▲QJ7	▲652
▲64	▲J1083
▲106542	▲KJ93
▲632	▲54

Dealer

Gen. Gruenther

- ▲AK4
- ▲AKQ72
- ▲8
- ▲AK98

Duplicate—Neither vul.

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	5♣	Pass
7♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening—♦4. 25

General Eisenhower and Gen. Mark Clark on the playing cards used at our bond rallies, through which the American Contract Bridge League sold over \$8,000,000 worth of War Bonds.

Generals Eisenhower, Clark and Gruenther are all enthusiastic bridge players. Gruenther overcame his jinx on the club suit when he made seven odd with today's hand, and it was a very pretty play. The first trick won with the ace of diamonds in dummy, the other two diamonds were trumped with the ace and king of clubs, and the losing spade discarded on the third round of clubs. There was still a club left in dummy for the heart ruff.

Fire Destroys Wing Of Brussels Library
BRUSSELS—(AP)—Fire destroyed a complete wing of the famous "cinquanteaire museum" here recently containing irreplaceable Egyptian and Greek pottery and a collection of 100,000 books on Egyptianology valued at 50,000,000 francs (more than \$1,000,000).

The Ford Theater in Washington, in which President Lincoln was shot, was dedicated Feb. 12, 1932, as a national museum.

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Germans Watch Lidice Films Without Emotions

NUERNBERG, GERMANY—(AP)—Movies of high S.S. officers strutting among the ruins of Lidice and grinning as they watched workmen blasting and hauling away the last visible traces of that Czechoslovak town were presented at the war crimes trial here.
The Nazi defendants, some of whom were unable to face the screen during the showing of atrocity films, watched the scenes without visible emotion.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson

The HORSE IS ONE OF THE OLDEST EXISTING MAMMALS ON EARTH TODAY, WHILE MAN IS THE YOUNGEST!

WHEN A FARMER PUTS A PIECE OF GROUND IN WHEAT, HE PUTS THE WHEAT IN THE GROUND. BY HOWARD SCHOEPFLIN, Viola, Idaho.

IN A BRAILLE SIGN THERE ARE SIX THREE COMBINATIONS INTO WHICH THE SIX, TWO-SIZED, RAISED DOTS CAN BE ARRANGED.

NEXT: The predictable robin.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

By Merrill Blosser

HILDA BROKE SOME EXPENSIVE RECORDINGS AT THE YOGEL HOUSE. AND JUNIOR PROMISES NOT TO TELL HIS MOTHER ABOUT IT. IF LARD WILL TEACH HIM LYP-NOTISM SO HE CAN COMMIT MAYHEM ON HIS MORTAL ENEMY, HECTOR GRUBBLE.

WHAT'LL I DO, HONEY JUNIOR GOT ME OVER A BARREL!

AFTER ALL, LARD, JUNIOR IS MY LITTLE BROTHER!

AND I WOULDN'T WANT ANY OTHER BOY TO INJURE HECTOR.

UNLESS HE COULD DO IT WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT!

BINGO!

CARNIVAL

By DICK TURNER

"Boy, Slugger! Are you ever givin' dis crowd their money's worth!"

SIDE GLANCES

"I'm afraid we're in for it, dear—I offered to tell about my fishing trip, show our movies and have Junior recite, and they were delighted!"

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OUR BOARDING HOUSE with MAJOR HOOPLE OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. WILLIAMS

TELL THEM ON THIS RANCH TO TRY SINKING THEIR SPURS INTO LUNCH COUNTER STOOLS—I'M WALKING OUT TO VISIT MY SISTER IN ST. PAUL AND SEE THE WINTER CARNIVAL—JUST SAY I'M ON STRIKE!

HEAVENS, MARTHA! STAY! CUT THAT 25 PERCENT DEMAND A TRIFLE AND I'LL SEE THAT THE BOYS AGREE!—EGAD! I FEEL AN ONSET OF THE DREAD GOOT COMING ON!—WOULD YOU LEAVE ME TO PERISH LIKE SOME FOREST CREATURE WITH A BROKEN LEG?

PULL THAT UNDERPANTS LEG UP! YOU'RE SOAKIN' UP ALL TH' WATER IN TH' CRICK, LIKE A WICK IN A LAMP!

GOSH! I WONDERED WHY SUCH A CHILL CAME ALL OVER ME ON SUCH A BALMY DAY!

SHE WENT THAT WAY, MISTER.

THE WORRY WART

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES

By EDGAR MARTIN

RUGGLES YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO OBEY! BACK TO WORK!

DO WE EAT THIS WEEK, OR DO I GET NYLONS?? WE EAT!

POOR BOOTS! MARRIED TO A FINANCIAL FIZZLE LIKE ME, SHE USED TO HAVE FUN BEFORE SHE MARRIED ME!

POOR ROD! BEFORE HE MARRIED ME, HE HAD ALL THE FREEDOM IN THE WORLD!

buy MEAD'S fine BREAD

WASH TUBS

By LESLIE TURNER

SO YOU THINK IT WAS ME WHO MURDERED THAT REPORTER AND TRIED TO AMBUSH YOU!

I DON'T KNOW YET HOW YOU FOUND OUT I WAS COMING HERE... BUT YOU WAITED FOR ME, AND—

DROP THAT KNIFE, WALK!

SUDDENLY EASY'S FOOT SLIPS OVER THE EDGE OF THE STAIR WELL... HE GRABS AT WALK, AND...

ALLEY OOP

By V. T. HAMLIN

MY STARS! LOOK!

OH, OH! I'D BETTER WARM UP THE MACHINE AND GET OOP BACK HERE WHILE HE'S STILL ALL IN ONE PIECE!

NO, DOC, DON'T NOT UNTIL HIS WHISKERS HAVE GROWN BACK!

EH? WHAT'S WRONG, DOC?

WELL, IT BE!

I'VE JUST STUMBLED ONTO WHY YOU HAD ME SEND OOP BACK TO MOO!

SO YOU FINALLY REALIZED NORMAL GROWTH PROCESSES REMAIN STATIC IN A SUBJECT PROJECTED INTO ANY TIME-PHASE OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION!

RIGHT... BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO INTO THAT MEDICINE-MAN ACT WITH OOP, YOU CHARLATAN!

AW, WHAT GOOD IS KNOWLEDGE IF YOU CAN'T HAVE SOME FUN OUT OF IT?

RED RYDER

By FRED HARMAN

LUCKY FOR YOU THIS GAL SAW ME REDHEAD! I'D HAVE DRILLED YOU!

IS THAT HOW YOU GOT LEFT, GUS MELROD?

AND WHY DID YOU TRY TO CHOKER ME THIS MORNING?

I AIN'T TALKIN'!

I'LL GO DOWN AN' FETCH TH' SHERIFF, RUDY!

HURRY BACK!

VIC FLINT

By MICHAEL O'MALLEY and RALPH LANE

So I let Scarr have the whole ball of wax—how I figured he and his gorillas had bumped off Jimmy Jeece.

ARE YOU GONNA LET HIM PIN THAT RAP ON US, BOSS? IT EASY, HE'S JUST LOUSE. GUESSIN'—GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR GUESSIN' RIGHT. HE AIN'T GONNA TELL ANYBODY.

TAKE HIM TO THE LOUSE.

FLINT, YOU'RE PRETTY SMART, NOT TOO SMART, THOUGH, OR YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE. YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT HOW JERCE WAS KILLED. WE DID IT.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE REASON, TOO. JERCE OWE'D ME 30 GRAND ON A HORSE RACE AND HE WELSHED. I ASK YOU FLINT, DOPED AND YOU WAS THAT ETHICAL?

THAT DEPENDS. DIDN'T HE CLAIM HE BET ON WAS WELSHED AND YOU WERE IN ON IT?

SO WHAT? JERCE WELSHED—AND JERCE DIED!

Country Clubbers Take Odessa, 68-40

In revenge for a recent defeat administered them at Odessa, the Midland Country Clubbers Sunday out-stroked the Odessans, 68 to 40, over the home course.

Read the Classifieds.

All-Stars Will Play Big Spring VFW Five

The Midland All-Stars basketball team will play the invading Big Spring Veterans of Foreign Wars five at the Midland High gym at 8 p. m. Wednesday.

The house in Denison, Texas, where General Eisenhower was born still stands, and will be made a World War II Memorial.

Basketball Feud Of Martins And Cranes Flares Tuesday

Oh the Martins and the Cranes, they are rugged basketball boys. And they feud Tuesday night at 8 in the Midland High gym for the benefit of the Midland Memorial Hospital.

Tickets are on sale at the Chamber of Commerce office here offering Midlanders a choice seat for this "Championship of West Texas."

Baylor Seeks New Laurels In Madison Square Garden Game

By The Associated Press Baylor's Bears, Southwest Conference champions with a record ranking among the best in the nation, finish an Eastern tour this week that could bring the Baptist school its greatest basketball glory.

The Bruins started the jaunt last weekend by trimming able Canisius 59-48. Wednesday night the Bays tackle mighty New York University at Madison Square Garden and a victory would push the Bears to a prominence never before known by the boys from Waco.

Arkansas and Texas A&M open a series at College Station Monday night that will write finis on the Southwest Conference campaign. Baylor won the title last week by beating the Aggies 44-41, then hopped a train for the East. After New York U. Wednesday the Bears wind up their tour with Bainbridge Naval Air Station at Bainbridge, Md., Friday.

GO TO CARLSBAD Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mitchell and son, Vernon, and Crom Holmes, accompanied by Misses Adalee Holmes and Marvis Six of Abilene, visited the Carlsbad Caverns Sunday.

Fenimore Found Fit For Army Induction

OKLAHOMA CITY—(AP)—Major W. H. Wandell, commanding the Oklahoma City induction center, said Monday All-American Football Star Bob Fenimore of Oklahoma A. and M. College had been found physically fit for induction.

Twice the injury has resulted in 4-F classifications for the 20-year-old backfield star who sparked his team to victories in the Cotton Bowl of 1945 and the Sugar Bowl of 1946. Fenimore has one more year of ineligibility.

Fittings For Bowling Balls Made At Alleys

An expert to give fittings for bowling balls was scheduled to be at Plamor Palace all day Monday.

Men and women bowlers of Midland desiring fittings for new bowling balls were asked to contact him. The ball-fitter expert is from El Paso and represents the well-known Ebonite Ball Company. He is qualified to measure ball fittings and is a factory representative.

Tom Sealy Scheduled To Return To States

Tom Sealy, popular Midland attorney and former member of the City Council, is returning from foreign service in Europe.

Lieutenant Colonel Sealy was scheduled to land in New York over the weekend on the George Washington.

MIDLANDERS SCHEDULED TO U. S. OVER WEEKEND

Among Midlanders scheduled to land at east or west coast ports over the weekend were: S/Sgt. Leo Clafler at Seattle; Capt. Phillip M. King of New York.

Water in the Danube River is not blue, but muddy.

Bi-District Playoffs Feature Cage Play In State Class AA Race

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF Associated Press Sports Editor Champions of 127 districts of Texas schoolboy basketball battle this week for spots in the state tournament at Austin with only 24 of them to make the trip.

Most of the titlists in the three divisions—Class AA, Class A and Class B—were determined over the weekend with a scattering of playoffs set for Monday night.

Five of the teams that competed in the state tournament from the Class AA division last year still are in the race but all of them could be kicked out this week in the bi-district round.

Amarillo meets Graham, Abilene tackles El Paso High, Greenville continues its series with Sulphur Springs, Paschal (Fort Worth) plays Crozier Tech (Dallas), Brownwood engages Waco, Henderson takes on Lufkin, Jeff Davis (Houston) plays Goose Creek and Thomas Jefferson (San Antonio) meets Kingsville.

In this week's bi-district round to determine the eight teams to play in the state tournament they are lined up like this:

Amarillo vs. Graham Tuesday night, at Amarillo Thursday night and a game Saturday night, if necessary, at a site to be determined. Abilene vs. El Paso at Abilene Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Greenville vs. Sulphur Springs at Commerce Tuesday night in second game of series, Greenville having won the first. They will play at Commerce Friday night if a third contest is necessary.

Paschal vs. Crozier Tech at Fort Worth Tuesday night, at Dallas Thursday night and if a third game is needed will flip for the site.

Brownwood vs. Waco at Brownwood Tuesday, Waco Friday, Waco Saturday.

Henderson vs. Lufkin at Henderson Tuesday, Lufkin Thursday, Nacogdoches Saturday.

Jeff Davis vs. Goose Creek at Houston Tuesday, at Goose Creek Thursday.

Jefferson vs. Kingsville at Kingsville Tuesday, at San Antonio Thursday.

In Class A the district champions will determine places at the state meet in regional tournaments and it will be the same in Class B.

Defending state champions of both divisions still are in the race—Sidney Lanier of San Antonio in Class A and Prairie Lea in Class B.

Oklahoma Aggies May Receive NCAA Bid

NEW YORK—(AP)—With interest hot in the national tournament at Madison Square Garden, it was considered almost a certainty that the Oklahoma Aggies will receive the NCAA bid to represent District Five (Missouri Valley), and the Violets will be the New York host in the invitation. The NCAA gets under way at the New York Garden March 14 and the invitation follows four days later.

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RITZ TODAY AND TUESDAY



REX LAST TIMES TODAY

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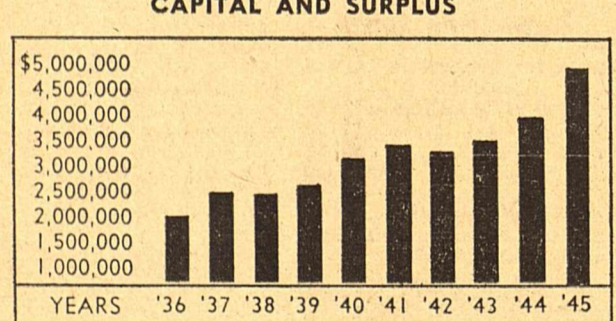
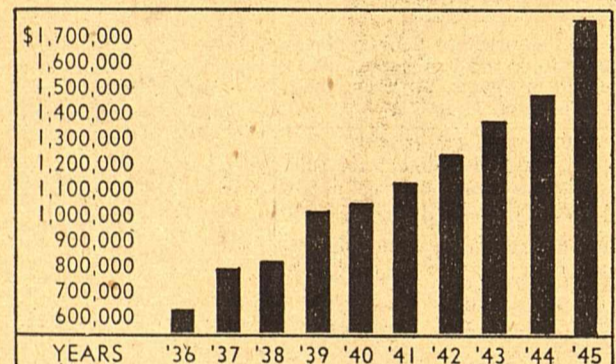
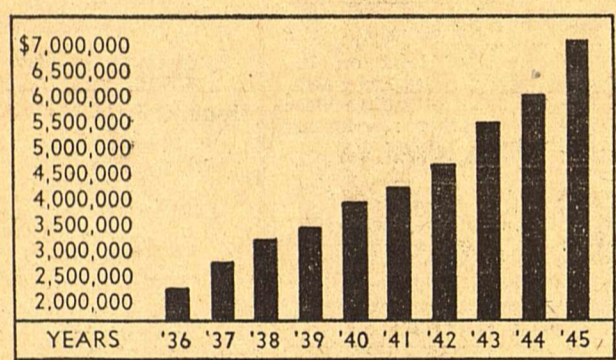
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GO TO CARLSBAD

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Mitchell and son, Vernon, and Crom Holmes, accompanied by Misses Adalee Holmes and Marvis Six of Abilene, visited the Carlsbad Caverns Sunday.

26th Annual FINANCIAL STATEMENT



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1945

ASSETS

Table listing assets: Cash in Banks, Bonds (Amortized Values)*, Stocks (Market Values), First Mortgage Loans, Premiums in Course of Collection, Real Estate, Accrued Interest, Due from Re-insuring Companies, Total Admitted Assets.

*Market value of bonds \$50,487.90 in excess of statement value.

LIABILITIES

Table listing liabilities: Reserve for Unearned Premiums, Reserve for Losses, Reserve for Taxes, Reserve for Accounts Payable, Capital, Contingency Reserve Fund, Surplus, Surplus as Regards Policyholders, Total.

Summary table comparing 1944 and 1945 figures for ASSETS, PREMIUM INCOME, and INCREASE.

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Southwestern Wins Texas Loop Title

By The Associated Press With Southwestern already installed in the conference championship, the Texas Conference basketball race this week is a fight for the runner-up spot.

If Abilene Christian College defeats Texas Wesleyan it is assured of finishing second place. But if TWC wins and the two contenders defeat the cellar-dwelling Austin College five, ACC and TWC will be in a deadlock for second place.

Conference Standings table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct.

Mrs. Marie Manning Gasch wrote as Beatrice Fairfax.

Ben Bolt is a character in a song.

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