

WOMEN WON'T TALK

BY RENE RYERSON MART
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CHAPTER I

It all began the day before. Naturally, I didn't know that anything was beginning then. I mean it began the day before we found the body. That was on Wednesday, and it was unreasonably hot for early June, hot with a muggy, uncomfortable stickiness that presaged the storm to come.

Margaret had come up to my room after dinner to finish arranging my things.

We'd thought we had the house all set for the summer, and then that morning had come a telegram from Kathy—she's my oldest granddaughter, child of Walter's first marriage—saying that she had changed her plans and was coming to stay at Kraiktower for a couple of weeks before going to New York.

Originally Margaret had unpacked my things in the turquoise bedroom, which has the sitting room attached. They are the rooms I usually occupy at Kraiktower. Connie, she's Walter's second wife, and a comely thing with her blond hair and tawny skin, had been assigned the mulberry room at the other front corner of the house, while Jack and Judy, the twins, and their nurse occupied the rose room in between.

Margaret is the only servant who regularly sleeps in the house. She has the back bedroom at the head of the stairs. Margaret has been with me for 30 years.

But Kathy's coming upset this neat arrangement.

Everyone at Kraiktower in summer wants a bedroom fronting the lake. Not only because of the lake breeze but because they are

the only decently furnished bedrooms in the house. Ten years before when Michael and I had the house done over, expecting to make it our year-round home, we had these four spacious front rooms, redecorated in the colorful modern manner with all new furnishings. Our old furniture and the family heirlooms from which we could not bring ourselves to part were relegated to the back bedrooms.

As a result one of these is done in atrocious golden oak with a brass bedstead which was our wedding bed, and the other, the one Margaret sleeps in, is a combination of odds and ends including the enormous black walnut wardrobe which Grandmother bought her over from France with her a century ago.

So following receipt of the telegram that morning, Margaret and I had gone into consultation and decided it would be best if I moved into the mulberry room, gave Kathy the rose room, and put Connie into the turquoise room. Then the twins' small beds would be put up in the adjoining sitting room.

That would leave the golden oak room to serve as Walter's dressing room when he came down. Miss Lake, the nurse, would have to go out to the tower to sleep.

Everyone was suited except Miss Lake. She asked all day after Connie apologetically informed her of the change. She felt herself a bit above the other servants and didn't like the prospect of sleeping in the queer, four-storied tower which gives our summer place its name, and furnishes living space for the chauffeur, cook, and housemaid, besides serving as a garage.

As I said, Imogene Lake sulked and put in her time fussing unnecessarily with the children and left all the labor of moving our clothes and personal belongings to Margaret and Clara, the upstairs maids. It was no wonder that Margaret was tired and a bit snappish.

She finished arranging my toilet things on the dressing table, put my favorite books where I could reach them without getting out of bed, and with a muffled, "Good night, Miss Marthe," at last hobbled out of the room.

I was too listless to turn the radio on after she had gone. Besides I had some grim thoughts stalking my conscience that night as well as faced then as later, Kathy's dark eyes that morning when she had rushed in and grabbed me in one of her boyish hugs had thoroughly upset me.

They were brilliant and bright, but they weren't the eyes of a girl who is happy because she is about to become a bride. And Kathy should have been. She was going to New York to buy her trousseau.

I HADN'T been altogether happy about the coming marriage, anyway, although Walter and Connie were so relieved to think that Kathy was going to settle down and get married—respectably married—that they talked of nothing else. Now that I had looked into Kathy's glittering eyes I was even unhappier.

George Baker was all right, in his way. A well-bred, well-talented young man. He was industrious, too, devoted to building up the stable fortune which he had left him into one, two, or three times as large via the banking business. You couldn't possibly find a fault with him, in fact you couldn't find anything exciting about him either.

When I thought of Kathy, our Kathy, as his wife my mind bogged down. The prospect was too unutterably drab beside the memories of my own early married days when Michael had had nothing but his youth and an idea and every day had a brand new and bewildering adventure. . . . I sighed. Perhaps there weren't any love marriages like that any more.

The next moment I scoured myself: "Don't be a hypocrite now . . . sighing and feeling sorry because Kathy is being cheated . . . as if you weren't to blame."

Hadn't I helped break up that early teen-age infatuation between Kathy and Derek? If we had let Kathy go her own headstrong way then, even as I had when I can away and marry Michael, she wouldn't have been facing any cut-and-dried, monogamous marriage to George Baker now.

Weakly I tried to justify myself. After all, Derek Grady hadn't been another Michael Kraik. Subsequent events had proved that Derek had since spent a term in a reformatory and was, I understood, on parole now for another offense. It was well we found Kathy that time and brought her back home.

I finally fell asleep and slept like a log in spite of the heat and a bad conscience, and woke to a day this proscribed to be a replica of the one before.

If only it had been!



The shadow of Derek Grady's murder fell on these four. Where were they at the time of his death?

Miami Mermaid



Margaret the cares of a war-torn world and meet this lissom lass who scampers shoreward at Miami Beach. She's Ella Leary, she's 16, a high school student and has been elected "The Perfect Summer Outdoor Girl" by the Miami Beach Recreation Department.

OUR MEN IN SERVICE

James A. Houghton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Houghton is now stationed on the campus of Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., where he is attending the Navy's school for radiomen. He will attend classes there for 16 weeks and upon completing the course will be assigned to duty with the fleet or ashore.

The course includes instruction in the operation of Navy radio transmitting and receiving equipment and enciphering and deciphering Navy code messages. The highest ranking graduates are promoted to petty officers as radiomen third class. Others are

rated "strikers" and have the opportunity of becoming petty officers upon gaining further experience on active duty.

Cpl. Pleas E. Moore, Jr., ASN 18, 118,333
70th Service Squadron
APO 865 care Postmaster
New York, N. Y.
May 28th, 1943

Dear folks:
I have finally arrived at our destination somewhere in the North Atlantic. I am safe, healthy, having a wonderful sight-seeing time, and have a wage increase of 20 per cent because of overseas service. It is hard for us to write because there is so much about our trip if told would aid the enemy. I have been well ever since we left the states except for a slight spell of sea sick-

We live in well heated barracks. On the field we are better fed than many camps in the states. The food compares to that fed up at Chanute. It is hard to get used to eating eggs that have been powdered and drinking milk that is once powder.

I have plenty of money left from last pay day. Our next pay will be in currency of the country we are in. I will be able to send a money order home though I get confused a little in making change, etc., in foreign money. There isn't much you can spend your money on but some articles are very cheap for the armed forces. Cigarettes for example are 5c a pack. For the same thing civilians pay 35c here.

I can say this about our trip here: It was a beautiful, magnificent, romantic, etc. Beautiful grotesque, snow capped mountains, that were animal infested. It is a geologist's paradise. Rock formations caused by the glacial age would astound you.

Your letters to me won't be censored so speak freely and ask questions. The only thing I can't talk about is military information.

Tell everybody hello.
Sincerely,
Pleas, Jr.

Soldiers can do without food, clothing, or shelter but they can't do without letters from home.

I received Pop's and Bill's letters of the 13th.

(Note by Censor: "He is right. Nothing helps soldiers more than getting mail from home. He writes a good letter. The Censor.")

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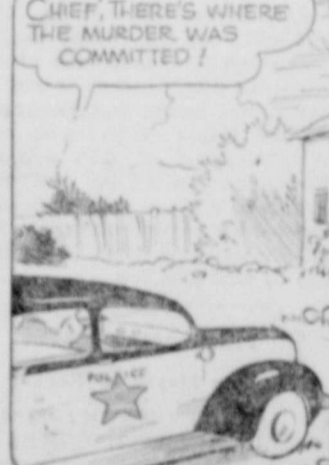
BY V. T. HAMLIN



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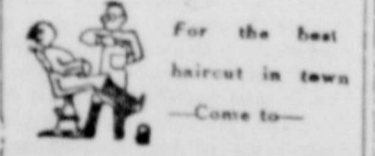
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414 Elm Street, Ranger, Texas Telephone 224

TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY, Publishers

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Ranger, Texas, under Act of March 3, 1879. Published every afternoon (except Monday, Saturday and Sunday) and every Sunday morning.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Ranger Times One Year by Mail in Texas \$3.00

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of this paper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publishers.

NEA Washington Correspondent

MAYBE it's about time to revive some of the "We can lose this war!" talk which was current last August. The news from Tunisia and Attu is all to the good these days, but the news from home, if you'll take the trouble to read between the lines, is all terrible.

Last August, everyone was fearful we were losing the battle of production. War Production Board was in a sorry confusion itself, and its disputes with the Army and Navy procurement services seemed endless and impossible of solution. But WPB snapped out of it, settled the worst of its own internal rows, fired a few of its brass hats who were gumming up the works, established liaison with the Army on one flank and with the Navy on the other, reorganized its lines, brought in some new talent and started going places. WPB still lacks some of the smoothness and efficiency characteristic of the German general staff at its best, but the battle of production is apparently being won.

Elsewhere on the home front, however, we are taking a terrible licking. The battle against inflation can become a rout, almost any day, and when the history of this campaign is written the chapter covering the days in which you are now living can be identified as the period of great indecision and glorious inconsistency.

CONGRESS prohibits the fixing of a limitation on salaries over \$25,000, yet there is a definite limit on wages under the Little Steel Formula. Reconcile that.

Office of Price Administration, like Ferdinand the Bull, doesn't want to hurt anybody, and seems committed to a policy of tossing the torches of inflation out of the ring by appeasement. Leon Henderson had to resign as boss of OPA because he was too tough. His successor, Prentiss M. Brown, may have to follow him into exile because he is too soft.

When OPA does get firm about wanting to lower some basic food price—livestock on the hoof, for instance—the War Food Administration objects. Prices must be kept up to encourage production. Result? Stymie.

THE War Labor Board, struggling to hold the front against wage increases, is buried under its own barrage of 17,000 unsettled applications for raises. It settles so few cases each week that strikes at key war plants like Boeing and Chrysler actually break out in protest over the board's inability to come to a decision—any decision. Office of Economic Stabilization, which is supposed to master-mind this battle against inflation, serves no useful purpose that anyone can see, save to deliver messages from the White House.

Before very much time goes by, it looks as though there will most certainly have to be some wholesale reorganizations, housecleaning, reshuffling of brass hats, changing of policies—just such as WPB has gone through in the past nine months—before any improvement can be made. If it isn't done, we can lose this battle of inflation and we can lose this war at home.

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Mrs. J. E. Brady
Billie McNutt Brady

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NOTICE

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I take pleasure in announcing to my friends and customers, and to the public in general, that I have been able to employ the services of Robert L. Floyd of Springfield, Mass.

Mr. Floyd is a graduate of the School for the Deaf in North Carolina and has been in the printing trade for the past 22 years. Having been with the Nationally Famous Magazine "Grit" published in Williamsport, Pa., for the past eight years.

Mr. Floyd is a master craftsman, and we feel that in times of labor shortage, such as these, that we are fortunate indeed in having been able to employ the services of such a craftsman as Mr. Floyd.

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nights, 300 German planes have been wrecked by the Russians. The Russian figures were symbolic of the low cost being paid by the Allies for the high returns in destruction. The Allies lost only three planes yesterday, destroying 14 of the enemy's in raiding Lampedusa ceaselessly. The conquering of Pantelleria cost only 40 air men. Italy admitted Pantelleria's fall 24 hours after the event and Madrid reports that gloom was spreading through Benito Mussolini's Empire. The Italians were said to feel their other Mediterranean islands, even Sicily and Sardinia, would be the objects of roaring attacks heavier than those of previous days.

Bellhopette

Beauty and baggage get together at a New York hotel where Helen Webb is one of the girls replacing bellhops who have come to war.

Killingsworth's

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Mrs. RALPH BOYVEY PHONE 224

Miss Gross and Mr. Mostaffa Wed Fri.

Mrs. Enda Key announces the marriage of her daughter, Miss Evelyn Gross to Mr. Donald B. Mostaffa on June 11. The bride was attended by Miss Fannie Lee Goodrum of Ranger, and the groom was attended by his brother, Jimmie Mostaffa of Kansas City, Kansas. Mrs. Mostaffa, who has resided in Ranger for a number of years, will remain here for a short while after which she will join Mr. Mostaffa in Kansas City, where the young couple will make their home.

Inermidates Are Invited To League

Mrs. Paul MacDonatt and Mrs. D. E. Pulley have invited all intermediates of the Methodist church to attend the Sunday evening meeting of the Intermediate League which are held at 7 o'clock. A special course in the study of the Bible is being conducted with a practical application of classification of the books of the Bible. A library is being compiled by the members of the league and each Sunday has some feature of special interest for the group.

Personals

Mrs. Evis Landers and Mrs. Dayton Rutledge are spending the week end in Dallas. Mr. and Mrs. George Robinson and daughter, Caroline, and Mr. Ben Robinson and daughter, Ann, left Saturday to go to Hamilton, where they will spend the week end with relatives. M. L. and H. L. Baskin are here for a visit with their father, H. L. Baskin. Mr. and Mrs. William Robert Maddux announce the birth of a son, born June 12, at the City-County Hospital. High Smith, who is a medical patient in the City-County Hospital, is reported to be resting well. Russell Wayne Hughes, who underwent a tonsillectomy at the City-County Hospital, is reported to be resting well. Miss Ruth Gregg left Sunday for Rising Star, where she will spend two weeks visiting relatives and friends. Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Ferguson

and children of Franklin, Louisiana, are the guests of Mrs. Ferguson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Reuver. Mrs. Mamie Trott of Strawn was the guest of Ranger friends Friday. Mrs. Dave Flensy spent Friday in Ranger visiting friends. Pharmacist Mate Ze and Mrs. Robert Riggs of San Diego, California, have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Cooper while enroute to Washington, D. C., where Riggs will enter school at the National Navy Medical Center. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mitchell and Mrs. Howard Rogers of Gordon were Ranger visitors Friday. Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Goodson of Strawn visited friends in Ranger Friday. Mrs. L. E. Stallings of Gordon spent Friday in Ranger visiting friends. Mrs. O. L. Reasoner was the guest of Ranger friends Friday. Miss Inez Casteel of Strawn was a Ranger visitor Friday. Miss Bertha Alley of Gordon was the guest of friends in Ranger Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Mays have as their guests for the week end, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dutton and Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dutton and daughter, Mary Joe all of Denton. Mr. and Mrs. Lou Williams and son of Odessa, formerly of Ranger, are here for a visit with relatives and friends. Staff Sgt. Nicol Crawford of the Aviation Cadet Center at San Antonio, is spending the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Crawford. Sgt. and Mrs. Wilson Guest of Pocatello, Idaho, are here for a visit with relatives and friends. Sgt. Guest is stationed in Idaho with the Army Air Corps. Mrs. Willard Swaney and daughter, Miss Fannie Dell Swaney left Saturday for Douglas, Arizona where Miss Swaney will be married Tuesday evening to Mr. Frank Hatten. Lee Dockery and Virge Johnson were in Breckenridge, Friday where they attended a safety meeting for managers and employees of the Community Public Service Company. Cpl. Carl Young of Camp Wolters is spending the week end with his mother, Mrs. Mary Young. Mrs. J. E. Brady and Billie McNet returned from Dallas, Friday, after attending burial services there for Mr. Brady. The two left Saturday for Dallas where they will make their home at 3401 Stanford Ave., University Park. Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Boswell have just received the information that their son-in-law, Joe Farntat who is architect at Historical Monument, San Jacinto Museum, has been sworn in as an Ensign in the U. S. Navy and will report to Harvard July 1. Mrs. Frantz, their daughter, will likely remain in Ranger while her husband is in training and in the service. Mr. Frantz has completed his dissertation for a Ph. D degree at the University of Texas.

ARCADIA THE COOLEST SPOT IN RANGER in TECHNICOLOR SHE'S NO LADY... but what a woman! The adventurous West lives on the screen as never before! THE ESPERADOES SCOTT FORD TREVOR KEVES BUCHANAN

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Churches

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH A Bryson English, Pastor Announcement for Sunday June 13. Church school at 9:45 a. m. Paul C. MacDonald, Supt. Morning worship at 11 a. m. Sermon subject: "Capital and Labor." Youth fellowship groups meet at 7:30 p. m. Evening worship at 8:30 p. m. Sermon subject: "Love or Duty." WSCS meets every Monday at 4 p. m. Welcome to First Methodist church. SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH Jasper C. Massenge, pastor The revival services at the Second Baptist church are being well attended and each service manifests added interest according to an announcement made today by the pastor. Evangelists Bill Campbell of Sulphur, Oklahoma, is doing the preaching and his wife is accompanying on the piano the singing of hymns. The evening services begin at 8:30. An inspiring musical program, prayer, praise, and testimony characterize the first thirty minutes of each meeting and a soul stirring uplifting sermon is delivered by the evangelist. You are cordially invited to hear this young and spiritual preacher proclaim the gospel of hope and salvation. The meeting will continue through Sunday, June 20. Some of the subjects for this week are: "The Battle of the Ages," "Hell—An Eternal Reality," "Life's Most Important Question," "The Possible You," "Christians on the Mourner's Bench at the Door of Heaven," "Is It a Good Bargain?" and "The Crimson Pathway." The daily vacation Bible school meets from 9 to 11 a. m. each week day. FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH H. B. Johnson, pastor Church School 10 a. m. with Lawrence Bryan, Supt. Golden Rule Bible class, taught by the pastor. Communion 11 a. m. Preaching by the pastor, 11:15 a. m. Subject: "Refuge Failed Me." Preaching, 8:30 p. m. Subject: "The Master Has Come and Called for Thee." There will be baptizing at close of evening service. The ladies will meet in their Bible study, Monday afternoon, 2:30. Come and worship with us. Remember it does not take much effort to stay away from the house of the Lord. ST. RITA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH Rev. Francis Maille and Rev. J. B. Duseman, pastors. Masses on June 13 will be said at 7 and 9 a. m. with Rev. Duseman in charge. Victory Bridge Engineer battalion at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., built this cable-supported toggle bridge in a matter of minutes. "V" shape is practical as well as symbolic. (Signal Corps photo.)