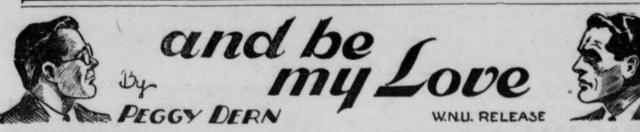
THE FRONTIER, O'NEILL, NEBRASKA



THE STORY THUS FAR. "Alicia ! Stevenson has been murdered!" The story was all over Pleasant Grove in minutes. Late in the afternoon Tom stopped by to get milk, and they talked about Alicia's death. Meg was upset, and involuntarily Tom put his arms around her and called her "darling." That evening Meg and her father sat looking at each other, each remembering that the other was out late the night before. "Did you do it?" she finally asked. "No-did you?" She was stunned. Jim MacTavish suggested they make a bargain: "You forget that I was out of the house-I'll forget you were trysting with Tom Fallon." A hot tide of crimson covered Meg.

CHAPTER XI

She caught her breath and could not believe she had spoken, though the words seemed to quiver in letters of fire between them. Her father stiffened with a little jerk. His face was white and hard and his eyes were veiled, so that she could not guess his thoughts.

For a moment that seemed a century long his eyes met hers, and then he said very softly, "No, my dear-did you?"

"Father!" It was a shocked, incredulous gasp that came scarcely above her breath. "How-how can you even-think-"

Her father lifted his shoulders in a gesture that was not quite a shrug and drawled coolly, "Why not? You seemed perfectly willing to believe I had!"

"Oh, no, Dad." In that breathless moment the endearing diminutive came easily from her tongue. "I didn't think you had-I couldn't ever believe you had-"

"Yet you put the question very easily," he reminded her dryly.

"It-it was only that I heard you come in last night-a little after one_"

"A few minutes after you came in, if I remember," said her father calmly, his eyes never leaving her white, ravaged face.

"Suppose we make a bargain, my dear Megan." Her father's voice came softly, low-pitched, scarcely above a whisper, in the tone of one conspirator to another.

"A - a bargain, Father?" she managed faintly.

He nodded. "You forget that I was out of the house-I'll forget that you were-er-trysting with Tom Fallon on the Ridge." he said in that gentle, yet somehow terrifying drawl.

A hot tide of crimson poured over

pered faintly.

Her father's face darkened angrily. "Don't be an idiot! You did not kill her. Neither did I. So what possible difference can it make-if nobody knows that we went for a walk? I'm absolutely positive that I wasn't seen; I feel equally sure you were not. So where's the harm if we protect ourselves in a situation that could easily become very

unpleasant?" She hesitated and he said quietly, "Because, Megan, if it becomes known that you and I were not in bed and asleep-that you were out on the Ridge with Fallon-it's not only going to be extremely unpleasant for you, but it's going to finish him, once and for all. He'll never be able to get another job as a teacher no matter how innocent and accidental your meeting was. Peo-

ple will remember Alicia's little thrust about your spending 'hours together on the Ridge,' and people are good at adding two and two and getting six or seven."

Megan said quietly, "Where were you, Father?"



"But that's perjury," she whis- | with the thing that was in her heart; the thing that had been there-who could say how long?-but whose

presence she had not discovered until under the shock of Alicia's death. "I like to talk to him. Miss Meggie -ef yo' think he ain' comin' anyhow, how 'bout yo' calling him up and askin' him to? So I could talk to him?" Annie was grave-eyed and portentous.

Megan, jerked out of her unhappy abstraction by Annie's tone, looked up at her curiously.

"Why, Annie, what's wrong? Why do you want to talk to Mr. Larry?" she asked, puzzled. Annie drew herself up a little and

there was a gentle, yet implacable dignity about her as she said firmly. "It's a private matteh, Miss Meggie -but it's powahful important. Yo' call him fo' me?"

"Yes, of course, Annie," Megan answered and Annie thanked her and went out of the room, padding softly in the heelless felt slippers that she wore to "ease" her feet.

But Megan did not have to call Laurence, for at about four o'clock he came down the road and turned in at the gate grinning at her warmly and happily.

"I came over with the coroner and some of the county officers," he told her cheerfully, dropping down on the steps at her feet and baring his head to the soft wind. "Pleasant Grove's certainly getting her name in the papers. There was a newspaper

correspondent for one of the Atlanta papers at the inquest." Megan asked, after a moment, 'What-what did the inquest find-"

"Death by means of a sharp instrument at the hands of a party or parties unknown," answered Laurence, looking up at her white, drawn face with surprise. "Oh look here, darling. I had no idea you were such a close friend of hers."

"I-wasn't, really," admitted Megan. "But-I knew her and-it's been a shock-"

"Of course," said Larry gently. He took her hand in his and held it closely. "We won't talk about it_'

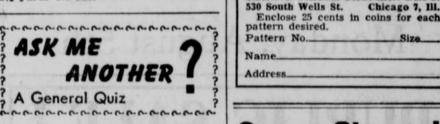
"Yes!" said Megan so sharply that Laurence turned surprised eyes upon her. Megan managed a faint smile and said, "I-I really want to know-whatever they could learn-"

"Well, it wasn't much," said Lautrace of robbery or anything of that find that difference unpleasant.



Savory Baked Reans and Hamburger.





1. How many capitals did the Gas on Stomach

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.

If you want to have fun, and at the same time, test your ingenuity, wheat-free meals. You may even learn to like it so

ing.

well, that you can stretch this to two days of the week and thereby help feed the famine-stricken countries. Why not try it?

What are some of the foods to use in place of bread and flour? Here is a partial list to help you: potatoes, corn and cornmeal, corn cereals, hominy, oatmeal, rice and other wheat-free cereals.

You might start off breakfast with cornmeal muffins or potato pancakes in place of the customary rolls, coffee-cake or toast. Use potatoes plentifully for both luncheon and dinner, and if you want bread, make some oatmeal gems, 100 per cent rye bread, or corn sticks. The family will appreciate them as a welcome change.

Non-wheat cereals like cornmeal and oatmeal can be used for stuffing and crumbing in place of bread or flour. Only in a very few cases rence. "No trace of the weapon, a will you be able to tell the differknife or a dagger of some sort. No ence, and even if you can, you won't

*Potato Cups With Tuna Fish.

(Serves 4)

1¼ pounds potatoes

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup diced celery

2 tablespoons vinegar

3/4 teaspoon grated onion

1/3 cup diced chopped olives

1/2 cup grated American cheese

1 cup water

Lettuce

1 teaspoon salt

kind. The girl at the bank said she Now that the vegetable and fruit

dish and a light, summery dessert, you'll want to clip the following recipes to have on hand.

her face and reached from the collar of her neat cotton print frock to the very roots of her hair.

"I wasn't-trysting with Tom Fallon!" Her mouth twisted with distaste at the thought, and the implication.

"But you did meet him there-" "Purely by accident!" she flashed. Her father smiled thinly. "I believe you, my dear-though I am a little doubtful as to whether other people would, if it ever became necessary for other people to know of that-er-accidental meeting."

She put her face in her hands for a moment and her father watched her with a curious tensity.

"But, of course, I can see no reason why anyone save the two of us should know anything about it," he went on smoothly. "Surely if my daughter and I wish to go for a walk in the fresh night air, it is nobody's business but our own. Unfortunately, in a murder investigation a great many seemingly unrelated facts come out. Of course, there's no likelihood that we should be in any way connected with this terrible affair. Neither of us had any motive to want Alicia out of the way-that is, I had none. I hoped to marry her!"

She stared at him, caught by some odd note in his voice. And after a moment he answered the look in her eyes, "Of course if it should become known that you were violently opposed to me marrying her, that you resented the thought of having her he feels as you do-you saw it in his here in the house, and had been unable to persuade me to give up my plans to marry her-well-" Once again he lifted his shoulders in that gesture that was not quite a shrug, but that was an effective dismissal. Megan drew a long, hard breath.

"You know I couldn't possibly have-" She set her breath against the sob that clutched at her throat.

"Of course, my dear-I know that you are completely incapable of any such deed of violence!" her father assured her, and there was a warmth that was very close to tenderness in his voice. "But it won't be what I know that will count, Megan-it will be what we can prove -or disprove!"

He let her sit huddled in a heap for a moment as though to think that over. And then he said quietly, "That's why I say there is no reason why anyone should be told that you and I were out of the house -though, unfortunately, not together-for several hours last night!"

"Whom did you think I'd be likely to tell?" she asked him huskily, after a moment in which she fought to pull herself together so that speech was at all possible.

"There will be an inquest, of course," he reminded her. "Undoubtedly we, as her closest neighbors-and I suppose her closest acquaintances-will be called to testify. And if we simply say that we went to bed a little after ten-"

1774/ 14/1 "'Scuse me, suh-but could I talk

to vo'-fo' a few minutes?"

He sat very still for a moment, his eyes clinging to hers, and she thought he scarcely seemed to breathe. And then he said casually, "I went for a walk."

And as proof that he had had his say on the subject and no intention of speaking again, he got up and left the room.

She couldn't pelieve that her father had killed Alicia Stevenson. It was an incredible thought; but he had been out of the house, and he was very anxious that no one should know about that. And she thought of herself and Tom Fallon, on the Ridge.

And then she remembered his face tonight and the tone of his voice when that little word "darling" had slipped out - the look in his eyes, naked and poignant and unashamed, the warmth and tenderness in his shaken voice that had been like a shining garment wrapped about her chilled body.

"Oh, no-no-I won't have it like that! I won't be in love with him-I won't!" she wailed, deep in her frightened, stricken mind. But her heart went relentlessly on, "You can't help it! You can't stop it. You didn't ask for it-but you can never deny it! He knows it, tooeyes, heard it in his voice tonight. You love him and he loves you-and he has a wife who has a greater claim on him than if there were children. Your love can never, never mean anything except heartbreak and self-denial! You know thatbut you can't stop loving him! Any

more than you can stop breathing! The inquest was held the following afternoon in the rickety, nondescript little frame building where the Draft Board met, and it seemed that, except for the few bedridden in the town, everybody was there.

Everybody, that is, except Megan and her father. For contrary to Jim's uneasy fear, neither he nor Megan had been called to appear. Little Betty Hendrix, Bill Logan, Mrs. Stuart, and a few of the others who had been first on the scene had

held open for him. been called. Megan did not quite know whether to be more relieved. or more frightened that neither she | ain't gwine git rid o' dat shif'less, nor her father had received orders to appear. But she had firmly declined Mrs. Stuart's hearty invi- to the kitchen.

tation that she go, anyway. Megan made herself keep busy throughout a day that seemed agelong. When Annie put midday dinner beside Megan and asked, a faint uneasiness in her voice, "Miss Meggie, is Mist' Larry comin' tomorrow

"I suppose so, Annie," Megan answered, and quivered a little inside at the thought of facing Laurence

night?"

had cashed her usual monthly in- season is here in earnest, fill the come check for fifty dollars, a few family on salads and fruity desdays ago, and her purse was found serts. Everyone yearns for in-seawith more than thirty dollars in it. son produce and large quanti-They feel sure that if she had sur- ties of fruits and vegetables will prised a burglar at work, he would spell both health and pleasant eatnot have left the purse. They being to the family. lieve that she was killed by someone Look over these recipes which she knew-or at least, someone she I've dished up for you today. Perwas not afraid of. There were no haps they will start you thinking about how you can help in serving

signs of a struggle in the place." Megan sat very still, her hands some wheat-free meals every week locked tightly in her lap. and still give the family complete Killed by someone she knew! satisfaction at the dining table. Someone she was not afraid of!

"There was one sensation," said Laurence after a moment, not looking at Megan. His eyes were on the garden, where, despite the fact that it was almost Christmas, a few late zinnias and marigolds were still in bloom and the chrysanthemums were great shaggy things of glowing beauty. "That was when the telegram from her husband arrived-" "Her-husband?" she repeated incredulously.

Laurence nodded. "That seemed into pieces. Cook until done in as much of a shock to everybody salted water. (Water should be evapthere as it is to you," he told her. orated by the end of the cooking "But it seems that when the detectime.) Press through a ricer, add tives were going through her papers milk, 1/2 of the mayonnaise, 4 teayesterday they found that she had spoons of the vinegar and 1/4 teaa husband and that he was the one spoon of the grated onion. Beat unwho was sending her fifty dollars til well blended, then spoon and a month. They wired him and the shape into nests or cups and chill. answer was brought to the inquest this afternoon. The husband is 7-ounce can of flaked tuna fish. somewhere in the west, but he's flyning east to claim the body. Should be here tomorrow or next day, they thought." "But she was a widow!" Megan

protested, dazedly. "Apparently not," said Laurence, looking up as Annie appeared behind the screen door that led into the hall. "Hello, Annie-how about putting another plate on the table and letting me stay for supper?" "Yessuh, Mist' Larry-us sho' be

dishes. glad to," she assured him, beaming, and then asked uneasily, "'Scuse me, suh-but could I talk to yo'-fo' following may be used to give a few minutes?" you more from your recipe, with-Laurence looked surprised, but got out additional flour: chopped ap-

to his feet. "Of course, Annie-don't tell me you want to divorce Amos, after all these years!" he laughed, excusing himself to Megan as he moved towards the screen door which Annie

"I ain't suah, Mist' Larry, dat I no'-count nigger, sho' nuff!" she assured him darkly as she led the way

Megan got up from the chair where she had been sitting for more than an hour. In the late afternoon, the sunlight had been warm and pleasant here, but with the coming of dusk, a chill little wind got up and tiptoed through the trees. and she went into the living room, where she built up the fire, making it brisk and cheerful.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

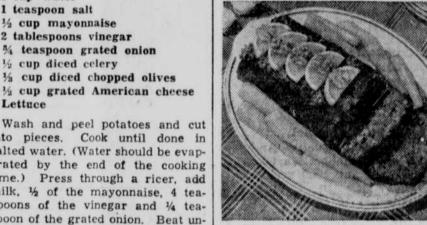
(Serves 4) 2 tablespoons fat or drippings 1/2 cup sliced onions % cup diced celery

14 pound chuck, ground 2% cups baked beans or cooked

kidney beans 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce ¾ teaspoon salt ¾ teaspoon powdered sage

1/2 cup water or canned tomato juice

Heat fat in skillet, then add onions, celery and ground meat. Cook uncovered for 10 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and heat thoroughly.



You don't need bread when you make meat loaf. In its place you Add remaining ingredients to one can substitute oatmeal, chopped nuts, ground leftover vegetables or chill and then serve into potato leftover mashed potatoes.

> *Peach Melba. (Serves 8)

2 cups fresh raspberries 1/2 cup currant jelly 1/2 cup granulated sugar 1½ tablespoons cornstarch 1 tablespoon cold water 8 canned peach halves 1 quart vanilla ice cream

Mash raspberries, add currant jelly and sugar and bring to a boil. Add cornstarch mixed to a smooth paste with cold water and cook, while stirring, until thick and clear. Strain and cool. Place one peach half, cut side up, in each sherbet glass, fill with ice cream and serve with sauce poured over the ice cream.

This sauce Melba may also be served over orange ice cream or lemon sherbet for delicious effect.

> Mocha Peach Shake. (Serves 4)

4 canned cling peach halves 2 teaspoons soluble powdered coffee 1/4 cup hot water 1 cup vanilla ice cream 1 cup light cream

to cereal and chill, then slice and Mash peaches and press through fry. Or, add chopped apples to sieve. Dissolve coffee with hot wacereal, fry as for french toast and ter. Combine peaches, dissolved coffee, ice cream and cream, and beat with a rotary beater until smooth.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

laration of Independence? 2. Where did Portland cement

United States h

gets its name? 3. Did spaghetti originate in Italy?

ave since the Dec-

4. The walls of what city came tumbling down because of the shattering effects of sound waves? 5. What former President was chief justice of the United States? 6. Who made the comment by song, "I'll never, never find a better friend than Old Dog Tray"? 7. Where does ambergris come from?

8. What did the Greeks worship under the name of Boreas?

9. The name given the steersman of a racing shell is what? 10. Submarines spend more time on the surface than submerged, even in wartime. Why is this?

The Answers

1. Nine. 2. From "Portland stone" which comes from England. It bears a close resemblance to Portland cement. 3. No. Marco Polo introduced KEEPS PO, AWAY

spaghetti to Italy from China. 4. Jericho.

5. William Howard Taft.

6. Stephen Foster.

7. It is yielded by sick whales. 8. The north wind.

9. Coxswain.

10. To conserve and recharge

their batteries, which must be used when submerged.

Hungary's Inflation

The greatest inflation since Germany's financial collapse in the early 1920s is now disrupting the economic life of Hungary. Its pengo, whose par value is 171/2 cents in United States money, has dropped to the point where 3,500,-

any other makes not acceptable.

000 pengo are required to purchase an article that cost one pengo before the war.

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DEODORANT CREAM





cups. Sprinkle top with cheese and garnish with crisp greens. LYNN SAYS: Save flour when you bake: You

can stretch your flour supply by

adding fruits, meats and vegeta-

bles to your hot breads and dinner

For example, when you make

pancakes or waffles, any of the

ples, mashed bananas, blueber-

ries, diced ham and cheese, sau-

sage meat partially cooked and

drained, canned or cooked corn,

When making home - baked

breads, use dried fruits and oat-

meal whenever possible, in muf-

fins, bread and biscuits. Prunes.

raisins and figs are fine for flavor

In place of bread, occasionally

use leftover cereals for the

starchy food for breakfast. Add

one cup of ground leftover meat

serve with syrup or honey.

Sweeten and flavor cereal and

bake with eggs and milk and

serve as a dessert.

and nuts.

and texture.

