

"Murder!" They Cried

By DOROTHY STALEY

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THE STORY: Betsy admits to Nana that she has spent the day with Pen Downes. Pen needs her, she says. She shrugs off Nana's query about Travers, who has loved Betsy since childhood. Nana reminds Betsy that Downes has a wife, even if he doesn't live with her.

VIII
BETSY'S face flushed. "I know Pen isn't any plaster saint, Nana, but if he had a wife who was interested in what he was doing, who was everything he wanted, he would be different, I know."

I said, "Do you think you are everything he wants, Betsy?" Her head went up proudly, "I know I am."

I said, "And this wife in Connecticut, Betsy. Do you think she was once everything he wanted?" She said, "He's changed. His ideas have matured. He wants something real from a woman; something more than just the wish to be Mrs. Penfield Downes."

I said, "Do you think he'll change again?" She bit her lip and didn't answer me. "Why doesn't he get a divorce?" I asked.

Betsy looked at me surprised. "I've just told you. She likes being Mrs. Penfield Downes. She wouldn't hear of it."

I started to say, "Do you believe that, Betsy?", but I stopped before I said it and made a fool out of myself. For wasn't that the very thing we were saying about Phillipa? The old saying about the view depending upon where you stand went through my head. Where Fletch was involved the situation looked one way; where Penfield Downes was involved it looked another.

I said, "Betsy, do you love Pen Downes?" She flung up her head, "Yes," she said, and she was terribly proud to say it aloud. "And he you?" I asked.

She said softly, "Yes, I know he does." She flung her arms high and threw back her head. "He has told me a hundred times, in a hundred different ways."

I SAID, and I hated myself for it and for the edge that crept into my voice, "Did he ever tell you in a simple sentence that couldn't be misunderstood?"

She looked at me. "I've just told you," she said shortly, "that Pen loves me. I know."

I said, "As your brother Fletch loves Dru Elliot?" She swung around, startled. She said, "What do you mean?"

"Just that," I said. "Fletch loves Dru so much that until the day Phillipa releases him, he will never speak of it. Never so much as touch her hand."

Under my breath, I added, "Again." It wasn't quite the truth I was telling, but something had to be done. "When a man loves a woman dearly, Betsy, he wants to come to her with clean hands and an open heart. When he merely covets her youth and beauty, when she is merely a conquest to satisfy his ego, he comes to her with flattery and easy caresses. Fletch loves Dru with all his heart."

Betsy was still shaken. "Fletch and Dru," she said. "I never guessed."

I thought to myself, "There's something to think about, young lady." I hoped I had started a train of thought which might counteract the one that Mr. Penfield Downes had started.

But I wasn't sure. When Fletch had said, "We can't go on this way," it had been Dru who said, "There is no other way for us." I wondered if Betsy, who was so fiercely loyal and so much too tender, had the strength to answer that way. Certainly Pen Downes would not respond as had Fletch to that same answer.

Betsy's reaction, which came very swiftly, was totally different, however, from what I might have hoped. She left my room abruptly, saying, "I must dress. We're going to Ann Quillman's for dinner."

I knew who was meant by "we." At the door she turned and asked, "Will it disturb you if I leave the doors open? It is so hot."

I SHOOK my head and settled back in my chair. I must have dozed off, for I was startled to hear Betsy call out from her room. "Is that you, Phil? Will you come in a moment, please. I want to talk to you."

I heard Betsy's door open and close and then Phil's voice sounded as usual as though it needed defrosting. "Well,"

Betsy's voice was warm with her intensity. "Phil, why don't you divorce Fletch?"

The ice was gone from Phil's voice, too, when she answered, "I like your nerve, Betsy. What right do you have to ask me that?"

Betsy's voice rushed on, "You don't want him, Phil. You don't care anything about him. If you ever had a spark of affection for him at all, let him be happy."

"Let him be happy!" Phil repeated. "What about me?" Her voice rose shrilly. "Oh, I get it. It doesn't matter about me. I'm not a Willson."

Betsy replied slowly, "But you are a Willson, and it does matter about you, Phil. You aren't happy either. You can't be. You would be much happier living some other way, and Daddy would see that you had enough to live on."

Phillipa laughed, "You know, Betsy, you have a hell of a nerve talking like this, but I think for the first time I like you. You're honest enough to admit that what I do now matters because I'm in the Willson clan, and you offer to buy me off! The rest of the God-Almighty Willsons wouldn't stoop to such low bargaining."

(To Be Continued)

Veteran's Wife Warned Not to Probe Army Life and Try to "Forgive" Him

The wife of the returned soldier should keep in mind that he was living in a man's world and that it will take time for him to readjust. She should also realize that he has been growing while she may have been waiting. Warning her against probing into possible affairs he may have had while away, Dr. Haryana Farnham writes:

"I found that I was a man and could act and feel like a man. I am not going to give that up. That was the end of a talk with a young sergeant who had just come back. He had changed. He needed to be met with an acceptance of that fact. It will be wise to face the almost certain fact that he is never going to be the same. He and others like him will return having grown and developed, discovered new potentialities in themselves. Women must be prepared to do the adjusting themselves and learn to live up to the challenge of their men."

"No one doubts that the goal of all soldiers' thoughts, through all their time away, has been home. But the idea of home to the man who had never been seriously threatened may be a very different thing from that it is to that same man after years of army life and months of danger. After the first exciting but terrifying business of being physically converted from an individual into a tiny part of a mass of OD, distinguished by a set of dog tags, there began to be built up in these men a sense of being part of something. The sacred army family, the outfit, was born. He belonged there. There he was an insider and everybody else was an outsider. Together they sweated it out. Apparently these men found out something about the realities of brotherhood or democracy or whatever you want to call it that doesn't harmonize too well with what they found at home."

"They found out that they weren't just boys dressed up in soldier suits waving toy guns. They were men. This was a uniquely male experience and for many of them, the first time they had felt anything to be that. Sometimes this masculinity may have gone to the soldier's head. There has been a lot of deploring going on about soldiers' vices, and no doubt they are to be deplored. But they can and must be understood in their real significance or we may find ourselves unnecessarily pained by them."

"The principal evil things to which soldiers always have been prone are wine, women and dice. The song and strong language they can mix with all three. "Drinking, swearing and gambling is easily accepted in comparison with the fear aroused over the soldier's attitude toward sex. The wives and sweethearts of men always feel great anxiety when there is separation. If the man is away, may he not be unfaithful and lose his attachment to his wife or girl friend? The fact of being cut off from the familiar and loved women does not act on men in a way to make them want to forego sexual expression. He never feels that it is a replacement of the love and devotion he has for his wife or wants to have for some woman who will be entirely his. All of this women must understand or they will be hurt and possibly resentful. Worse than that they may want to 'know all about it' with the idea of forgiving the errant man. That is likely to be the poorest possible way to approach it. It is far better disregarded as part of the experience not to be shared or exposed. It is for him finished, if it ever happened. He intends that it shall

remain a part of his past, buried and excluded. "Sometimes it is the women to whom the man returns who feels the discomfort and change. One young girl complained that she felt her husband to be so different, so changed. He was a boy when she had known him and he had returned a man and made demands on her she couldn't meet. She had stood still while he was growing."

"The job to which the man is returning is not an inconsiderable part of his life. He has all sorts of hard adjustments to make. Some of the men who have given their wives and themselves immense satisfaction by their achievements in the army in terms of rank, will return to jobs which cannot give the same kind of lift. They know and understand the vast unimportance of it all. They have learned that any job is equal to any other. But they will be sensitive to any suggestion from those around them that they have somehow failed to get a civilian job equal to their army position. Unless the women can see the job problem in all its reality and significance, men are going to be forced into positions of defensiveness and resentment. They will have enough heartaches about it. What they must have is the sure acceptance of themselves which doesn't waver in face of the unessential."

Signal Corps Is Taking Civilians As Technicians

Signal Corps is -- 1 24 3 inside. ARMY AIR FIELD, GRAND ISLAND, NEBR., FEB. 12--The Army Signal Corps now is recruiting civilians to take the places of enlisted technicians now stationed in the Philippines, Japan, and Korea the Grand Island army air field public relations officer revealed today.

Attractive jobs are being offered civilians skilled in the maintenance and repair of radio, radar, telephone, and electrical power equipment, and in several other classifications.

These appointments, for a minimum of one year with transportation furnished both ways, carry salaries ranging from \$1.50 to \$1.70 per hour for a 40-hour week, with provisions for overtime and night work differential. Quarters and subsistence will be provided by the army at a cost not to exceed \$40 a month. These civilian employees will participate in annual and sick leave credits. They will receive necessary medical care, hospitalization, and compensation for service-connected injuries. They may make purchases at quartermaster sales stores and outlets of the army exchange service, and they may participate in army recreational facilities.

Positions to be filled include electricians, central telephone technicians, telephone and telegraph installer-repairmen, automatic telephone system maintenance men, powermen, telephone repeatermen, manual switchboard installer-repairmen, teletype mechanics, telephone and telegraph wire chiefs, electrical instrument repairmen, radio repairmen of several classifications, high speed automatic radio operators, fixed station transmitter attendants, cryptographic repairmen and

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Rickenbacker Heads AAF Aid Society

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker will assume the presidency of the AAF Aid Society, and organization designed to aid Air Force personnel and their families, according to the Grand Island army air field public relations officer.

The society recently held a nationwide drive to obtain a larger membership. The society furnishes funds to help with the support and education of the children of Air Corps men who lost their lives in the service.

Membership is limited to wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of the air corps men and air WACs. Captain Rickenbacker, hero of World War I, served as advisor to the army air corps during World War II. He gained headlines in the second world war when he was forced down at sea during a flying tour of the Pacific area.

Other officers include: Mrs. Henry H. Arnold, vice-president; Gen. Carl A. Spatz, vice president; Lt. Col. Carl H. McClure, III, secretary; and Mr. Robert V. Fleming, treasurer.

ROTC Band Concert Is Set for Sunday

LINCOLN, Neb. — The University of Nebraska's ROTC band will present its annual mid-winter concert at the coliseum here Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, under the direction of Don Lentz. Two student soloists will appear with the band: Margaret Modlin, Beaver City, cornetist, and Phyllis Fischer, Shickley, marimbist. The band will make an earlier appearance at 12:30 p.m. on a statewide broadcast, at which time Chancellor C. S. Boucher will speak on the occasion of the university's charter day.

A Couple of Old Heads



Connie Mack discusses 1946 baseball prospects with Bob Feller at Iowa farm boy's baseball school at Tama's Cuscaden Park.

University of Illinois experts say Bang's disease causes great economic loss, not only from infected cows which become sterile, but also from dead and weak calves and lowered milk production.

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Yugoslavia Is Hit With Hard Winter

BELGRADE—Yugoslavia is in the grip of a hard winter with deep snow blocking roads and impeding transport to vitally necessary supplies. UNRRA workers making overland journeys that ordinarily are a matter of hours now find that they take up to seven days.

A special shipment of army rations obtained by UNRRA from surpluses is on the way for distribution to areas which are snowbound the worst and also for distribution to truck drivers who are making heroic efforts to get supplies through despite blizzard conditions.

Use Journal Want Ads

Army's Surplus Animals Being Sold at Auction

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—O'! Dobbin and the Missouri mule are being honorably discharged. From cavalry centers, remount stations, and mule pack training bases, animals surplus to the needs of the peacetime army are being turned over to the surplus property disposal program and sold at public auction to buyers throughout the nation.

According to John E. Kirchner, associate regional director of the War Assets Corporation Region 8 with headquarters in Kansas City, 1600 riding and draft horses and 3620 harness and pack mules were sold at a series of six auction sales held during the last two months of 1945.

Attending these sales have been buyers representing riding academies, resort establishments and dude ranches located in all parts of the country, seeking the army trained horses. The bulk of the mule sales have been to traders from southern states where animals undergo their reconversion from packing army supplies to working the cotton and sugar fields of the south. One Mississippi man purchased five car loads of mules at the December 31 sale in Kansas City.

Dobbin's average age at mustering out has been ten-and-one-half years, his height 15 hands and two-and-one-quarter inches, and his weight 1090 pounds. The mules have been of a much younger variety averaging four to ten years in age, but the height and weight have been nearly the same as the horses.

Mr. Kirchner announced another sale to be held in Kansas City on February 18 at which 73 mares, 137 riding and 30 light draft horses and 628 mules are to make their change over to civilian life. Information regarding purchases at this sale may be obtained from the War Assets Corporation regional office located at Troost Ave. and Bannister Rd. (95th St.), Kansas City, Mo.

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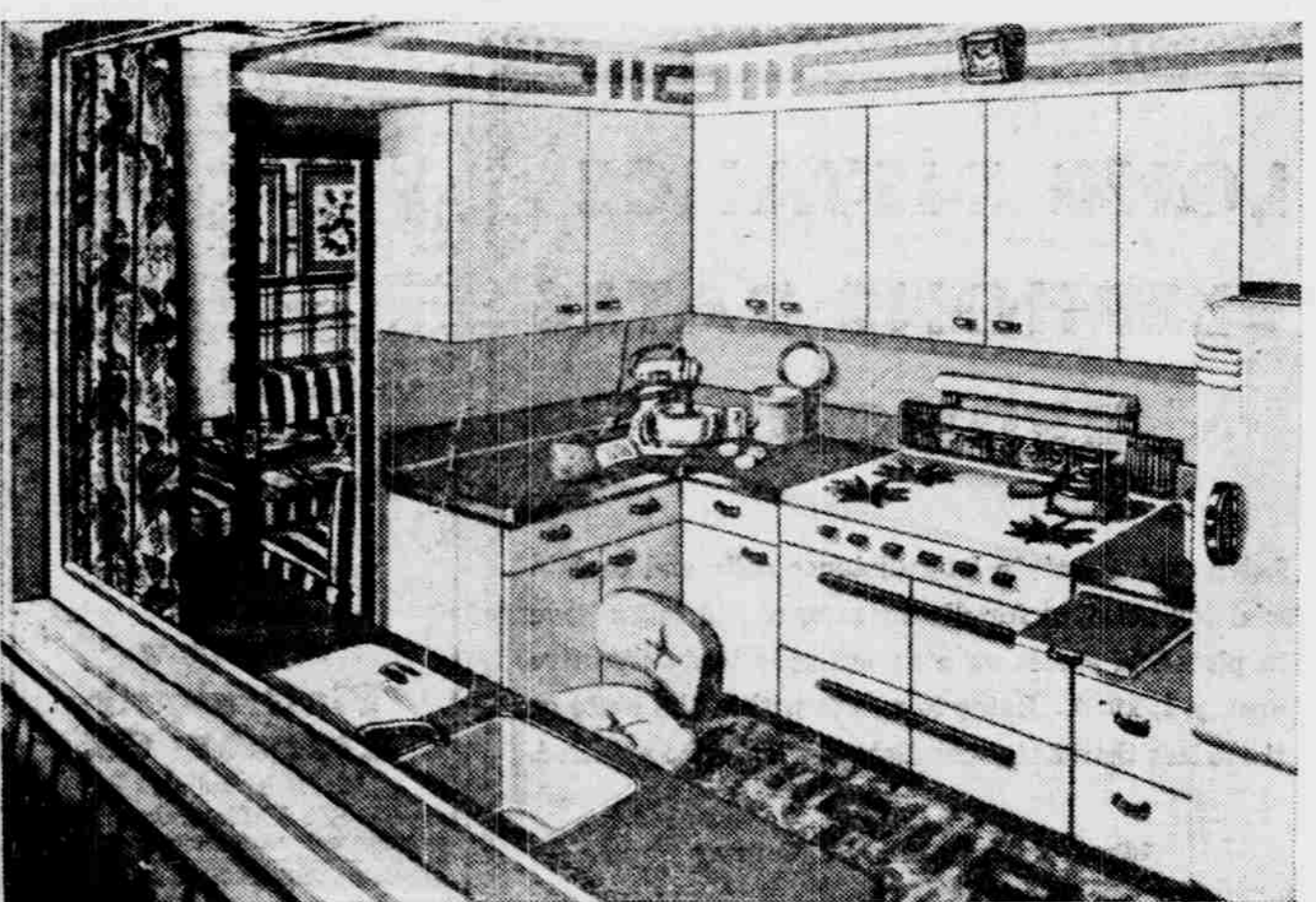
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