

The Blue Geranium
by DOLAN BIRKLEY

Mrs. Nina Arkwright is found murdered at a resort hotel. Beside her, is a broken flowerpot. In her hand, are some newspaper clippings about a flier, Danny McLeod, who was lost on a trans-Pacific flight she sponsored. Those connected with the case include Janet Cooper, hotel swimming teacher; Joel Markham, young chemist who was associated with Nina in business; Rodman Arkwright, her estranged husband; Kay Feldman, her niece; and Adele Kramer, Rodman's ex-wife. The next morning, Adele is found killed with a broken flowerpot beside her. Captain Loring of the police believes both women were killed for \$100,000 which Nina recently received from Rodman for a divorce. He thinks that she hid the money in a flowerpot but mixed the pot with another one, and that Adele later obtained the right one. One strange angle of the case is that Nina had planned a dinner party with all-black decorations. Janet and Joel learn that she secretly arranged to have a place set for Danny McLeod. Janet tells Loring this and discusses the case with him. When he leaves her, he advises her to keep her room door locked.

CHAPTER XXVI

L EFT alone, Janet sat down by a window, and took Joel's outline of the case from her pocket.

She read through it, then decided to add the information that Loring had just given her about the green hat. That would partly fill in the gap that existed between eight-thirty and midnight on the night before Nina's death—between the time she had met Arkwright and the time she had been seen by her maid beside the wall outside the servants' entry.

Janet had obtained a pencil and was writing down the details about Nina's purchase of the green hat, when there came a knock at the door.

"Who is it?" she called.

"Rodman Arkwright."

Surprised and puzzled, Janet went to the door and opened it.

"Yes?"

Rodman smiled pleasantly. "May I come in for a minute? There's something I want to say to you."

He sauntered into the room, pulled out a pipe and took some moments lighting it and getting it to draw properly. Janet resumed her place by the window and waited, wondering what had brought him.

"I've had a talk with Kay," he said finally. "In the course of the conversation, I discovered that she had been very rude to you. I understand she told you to stop meddling in this case. Well, I want to apologize for her. You've a perfect right to take an interest, and I, personally, am very glad to have any one discover anything they can that might help to catch my wife's murderer."

Janet didn't know quite how to answer. She wouldn't have expected Rodman Arkwright to go out of his way to apologize to any one. She had sized him up as a playboy with little thought for any one but himself. This sudden concern for her feelings seemed out of character, and she sensed that it wasn't the real reason for his visit.

"A N O T H E R thing," he went on. "I wanted to ask you about Adele Kramer. I understand from Loring that she spent last night with you, and I gather that he thinks she was killed this morning because she had got possession of the money I gave Nina. Did she say anything last night that would lead you to suppose that?"

Janet hesitated, then decided that, since he had surprised her so much, there would be no harm in telling him of the events of the previous night. She did so, then how Adele had slipped forth this morning with the flowerpot in her arm.

"Did she say anything about the flowerpot?" he asked.

"She didn't even tell me she had

it. She'd hidden it overnight in the shower."

Rodman frowned. "I suppose Loring thinks she had the money in it. It's amazing what people will do for money! To think that any one would commit murder merely for the sake of \$100,000. And to think that Adele was willing to run the risk of being killed for it! She must have known or guessed the risk she was taking, for she must have guessed that the money was the motive for Nina's murder. At least that's what Loring thinks, isn't it—that Nina was killed for the money?" Rodman shot a sharp glance at Janet.

"I—I really don't know what he thinks," she lied. "He isn't exactly the confiding type."

She felt anger rising within her for she saw now why Rodman had come here. He had learned that she had been having private talks with Loring, and he was trying to pump her.

"THAT dinner Nina had planned was a weird affair," he continued conversationally. "Loring seemed to think, the other night that it might have some connection with young McLeod's death. You remember, Nina told me that some trouble about it was coming up after all these years. Loring had asked me what I knew about her backing McLeod's flight, but I didn't know Nina then. All I know is that later, she seemed to have a sense of guilt about the whole affair—seemed to feel responsible for his death."

Rodman paused and gazed at Janet, as though expecting her to say something. When she didn't, he stared into the bowl of his pipe for a moment, then suddenly looked up again.

"I'd like to know," he said casually, "just what you did with the place card you took away from the table in the little banquet room this morning?"

Janet stared at him speechlessly. So this was what he had been leading up to! How much else did he know about the card?

"From where I sat," he continued, "I could see that there was a second name on the back of the card in front of you. I saw what the name was—Danny McLeod. When I went back later to check up, the cards were there in a heap, but that one was missing. I went to the catering department just in time to see you leave. Now I want you to tell me about it."

"I can't tell you," Janet said bluntly. "Captain Loring wouldn't like it."

"Oh!" Rodman raised his brows. "So the police know about it? What does Loring think it means?"

"I don't know—and I wouldn't tell you if I did," Janet retorted.

"I SEE," Rodman paused. "Well, in any case, it's obvious that Nina's dinner party concerned McLeod in some way. There are various possibilities. It could be that she was planning some sort of memorial to him and was giving the dinner to announce it. Or it could be that he'd been found at last and that she was going to bring him back into the world with a theatrical gesture."

"Yes," Janet said stiffly. "Either of those explanations is possible. Rodman leaned forward, fixed his eyes on her. "But we know, don't we, that neither of them is the right explanation?"

"I—I don't understand you."

"Miss Cooper, you know, don't you, that most fliers carry good luck charms—especially on the kind of hop McLeod undertook?"

Janet was bewildered. What on earth had a good-luck charm to do with the reason for Nina's dinner party?

"Yes," she said, "but what—"

Abruptly, Rodman rose. "Well, I can't take up any more of your time. Give my regards to Loring."

With that, he strode to the door and went out.

(To be continued)

Characters in this serial are fictitious

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British Assure Their Safety



Dr. Hans Borchers, right, prepares to end 15 year-term as German consul general in New York as he and his vivacious wife join Captain Fritz Wiedemann in San Francisco. They were assured safe conduct across Pacific to Japan in liner Yawata Maru by British.

Eden in Action



Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary, is pictured delivering a recent speech at a large open-air meeting at Leeds, England. He stressed the importance of helping Russia fight Germany.



SAVE THE KIDS!—Crashing of bombs, menacing whine of planes, ruined homes, are particularly hard for British children. Save the Children Federation is seeking funds for nursery schools. These youngsters at one of nursery homes are being taught shopping as part of their rejuvenation.

Future Soil Scientists on Job



Soil of a Redwood Empire vineyard near Ukiah, Cal., gets a critical "going-over" from some future soil scientists, students of University of California, on summer tour of state. Under direction of R. Earl Storie, group studied soils of some of California's famed fruit raising sections.

Souvenir



Movie Actress Carol Lombos was over a colony of bees plastered with pictures of her as America's Honey Queen before police removed hive because of neighbors' objections. It was a gift from 18-year-old Bill O'Malley, amateur apiarist of Mojave, Cal.

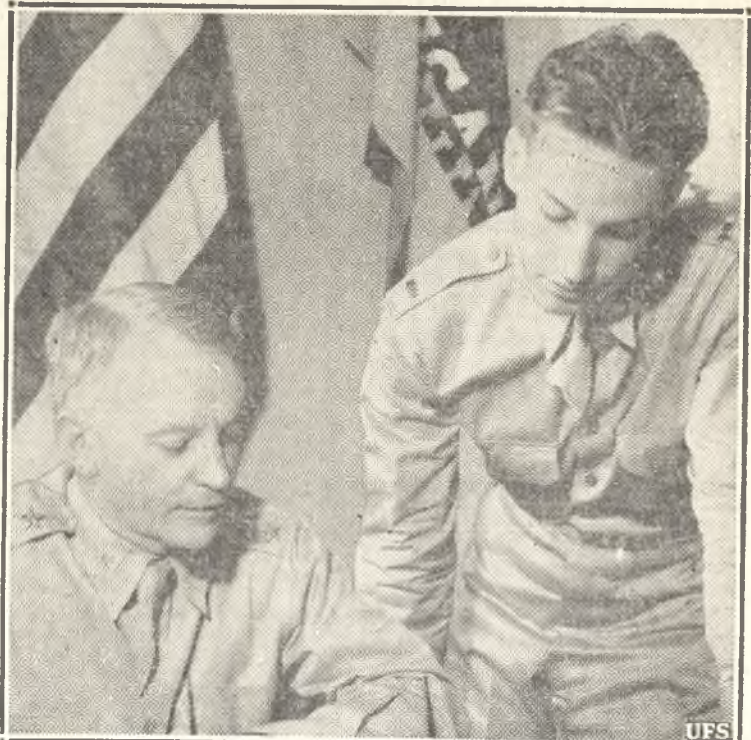


RESENT NAZI PAPER—Students in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, rip up copies of new paper, "Libertad," on first day it appeared. They said it had Nazi leanings. Argentine paper, "El Pampero," Nazi-inclined, banned in Uruguay.

New Yorkers Volunteer for British Service

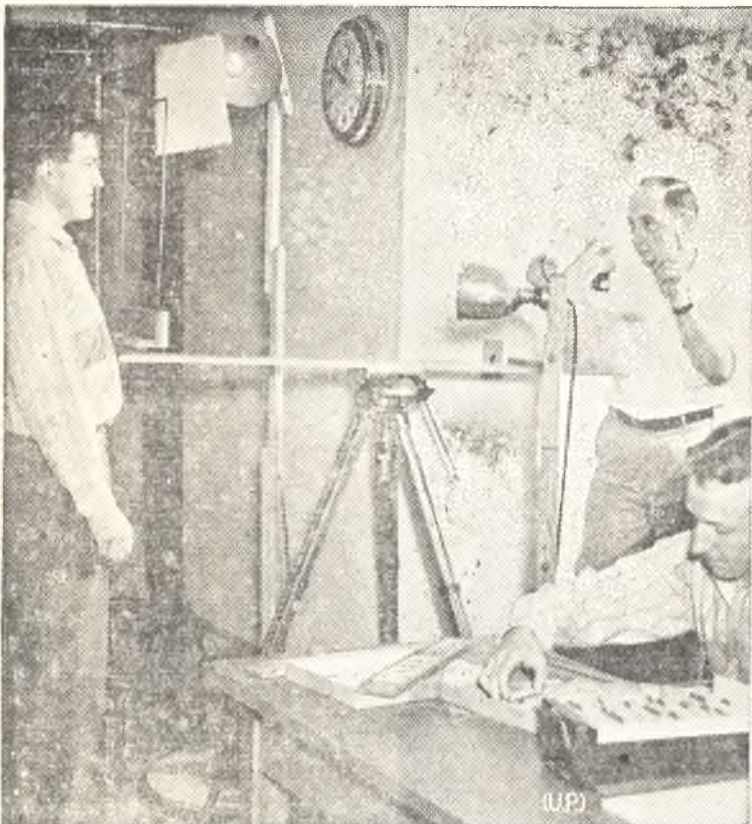


Here are some of first 200 Americans who volunteered in British Consulate at New York for service in Britain with Civilian Technical Corps, a new organization endorsed by President Roosevelt. Looking on left, A. H. Tandy, consul. British seek between 15,000 and 30,000 technical workers, mostly radio experts and airplane mechanics.



AIDE AND SON—Aide of Major General James L. Collins, commander of Department of Puerto Rico, is his son, Lieutenant James L. Collins, Jr., artillery officer, West Point graduate. They're shown in San Juan office.

'Mugging' Protects Coulee Dam

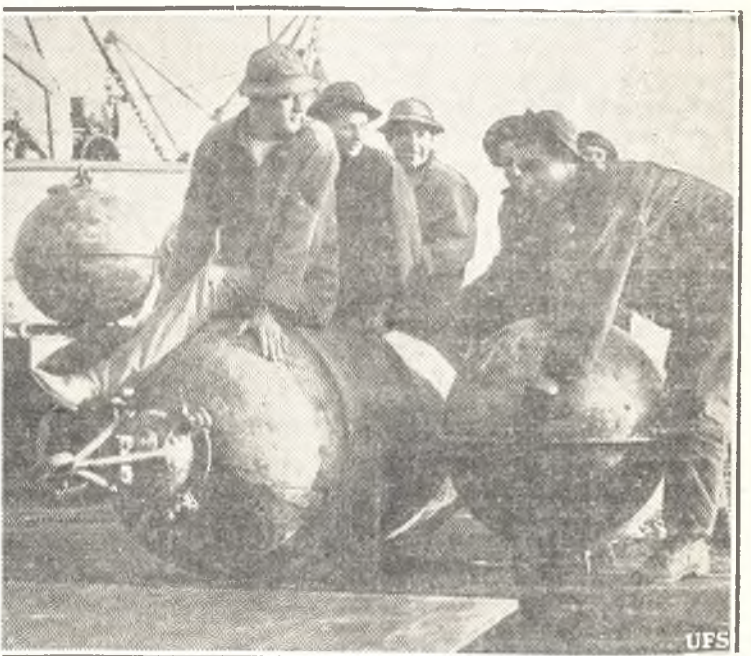


Typical of tightening-up measures taken by Federal Government in protection of vital power projects and other utilities against possible sabotage is "mugging" of Coulee Dam workers employed by U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Philip R. Nalder, head of the bureau's right-of-way department, is first person "shot" by Photographer Frank B. Pomeroy. Employes also fingerprinted.

Japanese Liner Sails Without Nazi Consuls

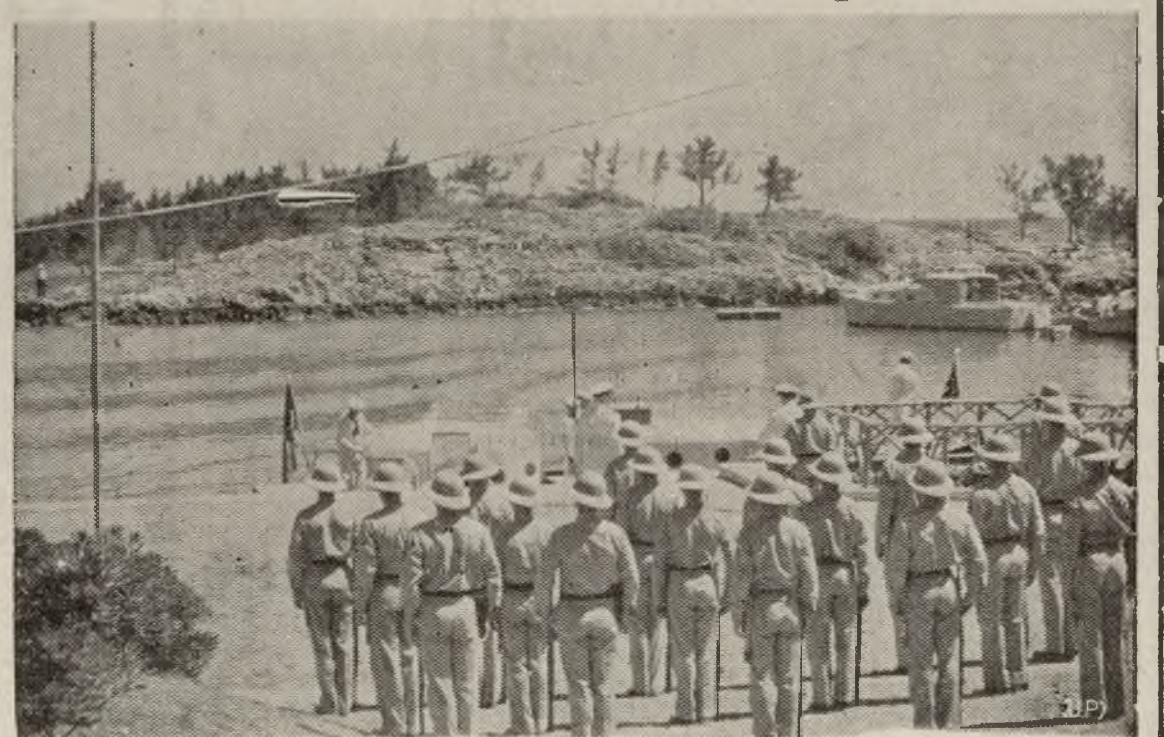


Before Nazi officials ordered other utilities against possible sabotage is "mugging" of Coulee Dam workers employed by U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Philip R. Nalder, head of the bureau's right-of-way department, is first person "shot" by Photographer Frank B. Pomeroy. Employes also fingerprinted.



MIGHT GO UP—In Army training program, practice mines were detonated in New York harbor by military observers ashore, after mines had been planted there. Above, coast artillery men find they make comfortable seats.

Bermuda Joins Iceland as New Outpost for Navy



At same time U. S. Navy forces were steaming toward Iceland (and Senator Wheeler was divulging information), U. S. and British officials watched ceremony opening new Navy air base at Bermuda. Here U. S. forces are shown in new easternmost link in vital chain of defense in Western Hemisphere.



AMERICANS TAKE OVER—Uncle Sam's Marines have landed in Iceland for duration of war, to forestall German occupation of island and to assure delivery of American munitions to Britain. British formerly occupied island, as shown by these troops erecting gun emplacements at strategic points. Island is 2,500 miles from New York; 2,700 from Berlin.

用使を島同てし地基英援は軍海國米たし領占ドラスニア洋北たれ離哩百五千二りよ育紐

布哇の産糖割當 二度増加される 約五万三千二百噸増加

七月十八日以後の 日本送金は返却 ヒロ郵便局で發表

不時の災難で他界 激浪に呑まれた高木君

資産凍結令該當者 チヤキ通用停止

各団体は假許可証で運用

凍結令下の財産 賣買は鑑札必要

味曾醬油雜誌 輸出禁止斷行

商人ホノカア組 ヒロで一夜の凍結

浅間丸今日四時半入港

積荷に除外例適用せず

船客のみ木府上陸の模様

桑港入港 船客のみ上陸

年五万弗の経費問題 廢止案、けふ参事會で議す

大藤友一氏 歸國送別宴

渡邊家の慶事

小原潮風會 聯合會開催

盆法要の数々

山津君結婚

女店員入用

自動車ローン

布哇ファイナンス會社

告別御挨拶

大藤友一

龍田丸は

龍田丸は

龍田丸は

龍田丸は

龍田丸は

正義の太陽

中川雨之助 三船成美



魂の行進曲

紋さんの魂が巧く功を奏して、それから四五日経つた...



干いたいな古靴や、帽が利かぬ。さういって紋さんは、就寝の...



Ever wonder how that watercress you find in your salad grows? Well in grows in ponds...

食べられる植物

食はず嫌ひの日本人

日本人は食はず嫌ひがひどい。食はれることがわかつてはなかなかに食わない...

花柳、羅門主演

夫婦太鼓 上映

併映には「懐しの顔」

大和座では明晩より新演劇部...

日活の超大作

「まぼろし城」と

轟杉の「暢気眼鏡」

パレス劇場のプロ

パレス劇場八月二日午後七時...

パレス劇場

八月二日(サタデー)

夜七時半より一回上映

原健作 河部 五郎

香住佐代子 橘 公子

香川良介 戸上城太郎

決闘は刻々迫る...

場劇ルヤ一日 半時八、時六、時二...

石井稔 武道治療マサージ

職人入用 布哇シャツメーカー

ビルを支拂ひは? 買物をする時は?

まぼろし城 日活超大作

暢気眼鏡 星ひかる、笠原恒彦、東 勇路



歴史的な南佛印平和前進

感激閱兵に民衆熱狂

覆面取った飯田最高指揮官

【東京三十日電】大本営陸軍部は一日午前十一時、東京で...

陸相並に参謀

總長より祝電

【東京三十日電】東條陸相は今日、佛印方面...

交通機關破壊命令

蒋介石の周章狼狽振り

【西貢三十日電】確報に依り、蒋介石は皇軍の南進...

佛印平和日誌

基地より西貢上陸まで

【東京三十日電】今日、佛印平和日誌の第一号が...

直ちに前進す

港歡氣湧く

【西貢三十日電】西貢の港に歡氣が湧き、市民は...

佛印南部華僑も協力

蔣の肖像繪消へ

【西貢三十日電】佛印南部の華僑も皇軍の南進に...

蘇波戰を停止して

波對獨開戰態度

蘇波新協定調印せらる

【倫敦三十日電】ソ連とポーランドは、今日...

我が精銳突如行動を開始

中支の敵數師を撃破!

北方に向け進撃を續行中

【瀋陽三十日電】我が精銳部隊は、今日...

飯田最高指揮官

露上で親善挨拶

【西貢三十日電】飯田最高指揮官は、今日...

蘇波戰を停止して

波對獨開戰態度

【ワシントン三十日電】波蘭は、今日...

我が精銳突如行動を開始

中支の敵數師を撃破!

【瀋陽三十日電】我が精銳部隊は、今日...

獨逸軍猛進撃

英空軍も参加して二八撃墜

【ワシントン三十日電】獨逸軍は、今日...

敵を包圍

武寧戰線

【ワシントン三十日電】敵軍は、今日...



SOVIET PRISONERS—German caption accompanying this picture stated these were Soviet prisoners in captured fortress of Brest-Litovsk, Poland...

のクスポトリトスレブ際の際攻をドンラーボ軍獨 (真寫送電ニルベ) たし領占を舍牢人囚聯ソ

獨軍側損失

【ワシントン三十日電】獨逸軍は、今日...