

SAPPHIRES and DIAMONDS

by DOROTHY CRIDDLE TROWBRIDGE

SYNOPSIS: Peggy Horton, working off her temper knocking balls about the golf course, shatters the windshield of a parked automobile. Harry Wilson, the owner, insists that she tell him what is wrong. She explains that she has written her school roommate that she is engaged. Now the roommate is coming to visit her. Really Peggy is kept in such strict seclusion by her grandmother that she never meets any boys—and isn't engaged. Her sister, Maxine Fruehcraft, is a successful screen star. The young man insists that Peggy borrow the ring his fiancée has just returned and pretend it is her engagement ring. On her way home she meets an attractive young man who inquires the way to Rosewood.

CHAPTER VI

Nancy stood still a moment thinking. "Oh, all right," she said finally. "Only I still don't approve of having that detective come. I just know he is going to get us all in a lot of trouble. How did he happen to be here and know about you?" she asked, turning to Maxine.

"He works at the studio in Hollywood and he is driving to New York. While he was in Chicago he talked to the West Coast studios and they told him that I was stopping here for a little visit before I went on east, so he came down here just to make sure that there had been no change in my plans.

"He didn't think I would arrive until tomorrow, but tonight he heard someone in the hotel say he had seen me today, so he called right away. He wanted to see me anyway, so when Peggy suggested having him come out to look for the ring, he said all right. And he is coming out in the morning. I think maybe I had better explain it to Gran, so you all can be a few minutes late for breakfast. I think it would be best for Gran to ask me most of her questions. Peggy would probably get all mixed up."

Maxine had already made her explanations the next morning when the two girls reached the dining room. Mrs. Horton looked up at them as they entered.

"My dear," she said, addressing Nancy, "I feel so badly to hear that your engagement ring has been misplaced while on a visit to us. I do trust that this young man—Newton did you say his name was, Maxine?—will be able to find it quickly for you. Maxine assures me he is among the best in his line in California. Have you thought back carefully over your actions since you last saw your ring, Nancy?"

"Oh, yes, Mrs. Horton, quite carefully." "You do seem to take the matter very sensibly, I am sure. Peggy looks more as if she had not slept than you do."

It was true that Peggy had not slept well. She had been out of bed several times to look again among the clothing she had worn to the train. Could it be possible that she had dropped it on the old wooden platform of the station when she went to put it into her bag? Or had it just dropped in plain sight of anyone who might come along and pick it up? But she remembered so well putting it into the bag and closing it. What on earth was she going to say to Harry next Wednesday if she had not found it by then? So her mind raced throughout the night. No wonder Gran thought she looked as if she had not slept.

"Of course I am worried, Gran. To have Nancy lose such a gorgeous ring here!"

Her grandmother smiled at her. "But, my dear, rings cannot run away. And we know that there is no one here who would have taken it, so that leaves it simply misplaced. I feel sure that Mr. Newton will be able to suggest the place where it must be. Oh, that must be he. I hear an automobile. We will go into the front parlor and see him there."

Maxine followed William to the front door while Mrs. Horton and the two girls crossed the hall and entered the front parlor. Peggy was surprised that her grandmother had chosen this place to receive a detective. It was here that Gran usually greeted her more important guests.

ing into this room of her ancestors and being judged by Gran. She remembered a detective she had seen in one of Maxine's pictures. He was a large fat man who wore a derby hat on the back of his head, and who seemed always to have a long cigar stuck in the corner of his mouth. Suppose that was the man she could hear Maxine talking to now in the hall. Could Maxine really know someone like that? If a fat man with a derby on the back of his head and a cigar in the corner of his mouth entered this room he might just as well give up all thought of his helping her find the ring. Gran would get rid of him without giving him a chance, she was sure.

"Oh, I hope he won't be too bad," she prayed fervently as she heard footsteps crossing the hall. She shut her eyes, waiting to hear how Gran greeted him before she looked to see what he was like.

"Gran," Maxine was saying, "this is Stanley Newton, a friend of mine from California. My grandmother, Mrs. Horton, Stanley."

"I am delighted to meet you, Mr. Newton," Gran sounded as if she really meant it, and the muscles around Peggy's tightly closed eyes began to relax.

"I can't tell you—Peggy didn't hear any more. Her eyes were open now. Wide open. She knew that voice. He wasn't fat, he wasn't wearing a derby, and he did not have a cigar in his mouth. Mr. Newton was the man from California. So that was what a real detective was like.

"And my sister, Miss Margaret Horton," Maxine was saying, after she had introduced him to Nancy. Peggy had been standing in the shadows of the room and he evidently had not seen her until Maxine spoke. Recognizing her now he started eagerly forward.

"How do you do?" was her chilly greeting.

He stopped abruptly. "How do you do?" he answered with no inflection.

"Is the man crazy?" Peggy thought. "Imagine Gran's expression if I had rushed forward and we had shaken hands. Nice explanation. We had talked twice without either of us knowing who the other one was. Yes, that would have gone over big. I can see where he and Gran will not get along at all."

But on the contrary he and Gran seemed to be getting along famously. She had been watching Mr. Newton closely, and now smiled at him—one of Gran's nicest smiles—and he smiled back, and Peggy felt sure it was one of his very best, also.

"You won't think me presumptuous, will you, Mr. Newton," Gran began, "if I ask you which you consider the greatest—Sherlock Holmes, Philo Vance or Hercule Poirot?"

Mr. Newton drew his chair a little closer to the high backed one that held his hostess and leaned forward with enthusiasm.

"Presumptuous? I should say not, but you see that is something I would much rather discuss with you than just answer right off. As I see it Sherlock Holmes had—"

But Peggy lost track of the conversation as she turned a puzzled face to Maxine, who shrugged her shoulders and looked blank. What on earth were they talking about? Of course she had heard of Sherlock Holmes, but what had he to do with these other two men? And what did Gran know about detectives? Peggy felt sure she had never seen one before.

"Well, putting it another way," Gran began again, "which detective method do you use?"

"To tell you the truth, I rather combine a little of each of them and from that make my own method. I find I get the best results that way."

Mrs. Horton nodded slowly. "Yes," she agreed. "I see how that might be done. Now in this case, of course, all you have to go on is that Miss Sawyer arrived here with the ring in her possession and last night when she went to put it on it had disappeared."

"The servants?" the detective began quickly, but Gran raised her small hand peremptorily.

"To doubt the servants, Mr. Newton, is out of the question."

"Can't we go outside some place to talk?" he asked Peggy when the others had disappeared down the hall. She glanced through the parlor windows at the rose garden.

"We might go out there," she suggested.

Leaving the house quietly they went down the front steps and turned the corner of the house entering the rose garden.

"Whew!" he breathed in relief, taking his cigarette case from his pocket and offering it to Peggy, who shook her head. "May I?" he asked. When she nodded her assent, he stopped for a moment to light his cigarette while she continued up the walk toward the summer house.

"Your friend Nancy is a helpful little soul, isn't she?" he asked, joining her.

"What is it you wished to ask me?" Peggy asked him without replying to his question about Nancy.

He laughed. "To tell you the truth I don't know. I only knew I wanted to talk to you and that seemed the best way to do it. Things have come so fast and furiously that I am bewildered. Last night when Maxine said her sister had lost her ring and for me to come out and help find it, it seemed all right. Of course, I didn't know then that her sister was you. And I didn't know that you were engaged. And now to be perfectly honest I don't give a hoot about finding your engagement ring. Couldn't we just forget that and talk about ourselves for a while?"

"Certainly not," Peggy said indignantly, stepping into the summer house. "I shall answer any questions you care to ask about the ring, but that is all."

"I suppose you're right," he sighed, seating himself beside her. "Take one thing at a time. Well, let's hurry and get it over. Now let's see, a ring is lost. By the way, what kind of a ring is it?"

"An engagement ring."

"Yes, so I have been told, but you needn't rub it in. What's all this big idea anyway about so much secrecy? If it's your engagement ring why pretend to your grandmother that it's Miss Nancy's?"

"We can go into all that some other time," Peggy told him coldly.

(Continued Next Week)

CUT IS ORDERED IN AMOUNT OF COFFEE USED

Washington, April 27.—The war production board today ordered a 25 per cent cut in the consumption of coffee, because of "uncertainties about future supplies."

The cut was brought about by an order reducing the amount of coffee which may be delivered by roasters and accepted by the wholesalers in any month to 75 per cent of deliveries in the corresponding period of 1941.

The government will not attempt to ration coffee at the consumer level, WPB said, but the wholesalers are "expected to pass the cut along to their customers as equitably as possible."

"This action was taken to conserve supplies now on hand for the army, navy and civilian population and to make future supplies go as far as possible," the board's announcement said.

DON'T FEED THE BEAR

Raleigh, April 28.—There are few people who haven't received a ticket for speeding or passing on a hill or similar traffic violations, but you can get a ticket for feeding the bears on North Carolina state highways.

Why not feed the bears? The main reason is they are wild and are just a little too playful at times. Of course, there are other unusual regulations, such as not picking wild flowers, throwing stones at trees, not taking your pet cat with you, or dumping all trash into garbage cans.

Bricklayer No. 1



Winston Churchill at his favorite pastime—next to prime ministering—laying bricks. During a visit to an anti-aircraft battery, Churchill saw some soldiers busy building a brick wall. He took a hand. Premier Churchill holds a bricklayer's union card.

PRESIDENT OUTLINES PLANS TO COMBAT INFLATION

Washington, April 27.—President Roosevelt outlined to congress today a broad anti-inflation program which would fix general price ceilings, freeze most wages "at existing scales" and syphon into government coffers all individual incomes over \$25,000 a year.

These steps, with taxes that would lap up all corporation profits not necessary to continued production, with a reduction in the present legal maximum prices for farm products, with increased war bond buying and debt paying, and with rationing of scarce essentials, would, he predicted, avert the cost of living hardships of the first World War.

"We cannot fight this war, we cannot exert our maximum effort on a spend-as-usual basis," Mr. Roosevelt said in a special message to congress. "We cannot have all we want, if our soldiers and sailors are to have all they need."

By implication he opposed any change in the wage-hour law asserting that most defense workers were now working more than 40 hours a week, and that they should be paid time and a half for overtime, lest there be a reduction in their weekly pay envelopes.

In addition to slashing higher salaries down to \$25,000 by taxation, he foresaw a process of stabilizing wages through protests to and decisions by the war labor board, which would "continue to give due consideration to inequalities and the elimination of sub-standards of living."

Existing contracts between employers and employees should, he said, be fully honored "in all fairness."

The office of price administration is expected to announce soon a general price order, freezing prices as of some time in the recent past, probably March.

Except for taxes and for deducting the limit on agricultural prices, Mr. Roosevelt said in his message that no new legislation would be needed to make the program possible. He asked for quick congressional action on taxes and farm prices, however.

REDS CLAIM BAG OF 1,500 NAZI PLANES IN 6 WEEKS

London, April 20.—Soviet pilots and ground batteries destroyed 1,500 German planes in the six weeks ending April 14, to amass one of the biggest scores of the air war, the Moscow radio announced tonight.

The reported bag was remarkable in itself but all the more so because 1,000 of the Nazi craft were declared knocked out during March alone, when blizzards caused some of the worst flying weather encountered by Red airmen.

Aerial warfare has exploded in the far north with the Soviet air force smashing heavy Nazi assaults upon the Red northern fleet, the Russians announced. In one engagement 15 German craft were declared downed without a Soviet loss.

The biggest news from the eastern front was the report that the Russian army of the center had drawn its big guns up to within range of Smolensk, center of German military power, about 230 miles west of Moscow, while northern Russian forces were violently assaulting the main German and Finnish lines about Leningrad.

JAP DESTROYER DESTROYED

Washington, April 21.—The navy tonight recorded another heroic exploit by Lieut. John Bulkeley, the "torpedo boat terror," while the war department reported the sombre tidings that only 107 of an estimated 3,000 American national guardsmen got away from bloody Bataan.

Bulkeley, scourge of Japanese mariners and the man who piloted the torpedo boat which brought Gen. Douglas MacArthur safely out of Luzon, was revealed to have bagged a Jap cruiser in recent action near the southern Philippine island of Cebu.

Mabel News

Union Baptist Sunday school is progressing nicely under the management of Superintendent Barney Oliver.

The Mabel school closed on April 25, Herman H. Heafner, who has been the principal for four years with his teaching force has given an excellent service. Mr. Heafner is a great principal; he kept the very best of order, looked after the welfare of the children, and made wonderful improvements on the reports of the children. He is considered as being a great disciplinarian and goes from us to his home in Lincolnton where he will be inducted into the U. S. armed forces soon.

Mrs. Elizabeth Greer is seriously ill at her home here.

Dewey Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thomas, who is somewhere in Ireland, with the armed forces of the United States, was heard from recently.

Willis Smith, who is with the army in the Hawaiian Islands, has written to his grandfather, Mr. John Oliver. His friends here will be glad to know that he is well.

NAVY MOBILE RECRUITING UNIT FOR STATE CANCELLED

Raleigh, April 28.—A projected month-long navy recruiting cruising trader trip through North Carolina scheduled for May has been cancelled, it was announced today by Lieut. C. B. Neely, officer in charge of navy recruiting for North Carolina, due to the urgent need for the cruiser in northwestern United States.

All arrangements made with mayors, postmasters, superintendents of schools and chiefs of police in the towns to be visited have also been cancelled. The trip was to have started May 4, ended June 2, with three stops a day in practically every leading town in the state which does not have a navy recruiting station.

The rubber from four pairs of men's overshoes would make a single pair of army galeshes, 60 containers for 75-mm shells can be made from a pile of 100 old newspapers, and one pound of brass pipe contains enough metal to make 13 30 calibre cartridges.

The last states admitted to the Union were Arizona and New Mexico.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
North Carolina, Watauga County. By virtue of a power of sale contained in a deed of trust executed by M. A. Main and wife, Bessie Main to W. H. Graybeal, trustee for J. N. Stansberry and Ham Graybeal, which deed of trust is dated November 25, 1940, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds of Watauga county in Book 36, page 166; default having been made in the payment of the balance due on the principal and interest of the said deed of trust, and at the instance and request of the said J. N. Stansberry and Ham Graybeal, I, W. H. Graybeal, trustee, will sell to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Boone, North Carolina, at 1 o'clock p. m., on Saturday, May 23, 1942, the following described real estate situated in Watauga county:

Beginning on a bitter birch, thence with Dossie Main line to top of the ridge to a cucumber; then with top of the ridge, Dossie Main line to a chestnut. But Johnson's corner; then down the hollow, and then up to the top of the ridge to an oak; John Potter's corner; thence with Potter's line to a stake, M. A. Main corner; thence with David Main's line back to the beginning, containing 75 acres, more or less.

This the 21st day of April, 1942.
W. H. GRAYBEAL, Trustee.

COUNTY SCHOOLS TO BUY NEXT YEAR'S COAL

The County Board of Education will receive bids on coal furnished for the county schools for the 1942-43 school term on May 4, 1942. All bids must be presented by 11 a. m. Bids will be received for delivering coal into the school bins as follows:

- 80 tons of Steker
 - 311 tons of Run of Mine
 - 105 tons of Egg
- Anyone wishing to present bids may receive the forms by applying at the county superintendent's office.

W. H. WALKER, County Superintendent.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Having qualified as the administrators of the estate of George W. Caudill, late of the county of Watauga, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased to present them to us for payment within twelve months of the date hereof, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All those indebted to the estate are asked to make immediate payment. This March 27, 1942.

SHIRLEY CAUDILL, Myrtle Caudill, Adms.

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A 25 cent fee is charged upon joining, after which the following dues are in effect:

	Quarterly	Yearly	Benefit
One to Ten Years	.10	.40	\$ 50.00
Two to Twenty-nine Years	.20	.80	100.00
Thirty to Fifty Years	.40	1.60	100.00
Fifty to Sixty-five years	.60	2.40	100.00

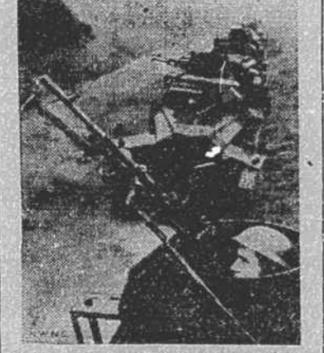
THREE DOTS AND A DASH FOR VICTORY

EVERY PAY DAY

BUY DEFENSE BONDS BUY DEFENSE STAMPS

MEMBER From Miami Daily News

Ready for Jerry



Armored cars, equipped with anti-aircraft machine guns, halt at side of road somewhere in England during maneuvers that keep the garrison army on its toes. These cars are used for advance reconnaissance work. They are not as maneuverable as the U. S. jeep car.

She smiled to herself as she thought of some big Irishman—weren't all detectives Irish, or did that only apply to city cops?—com-