

# RIVAL WIVES

by Anne Austin  
Author of  
The Black Pigeon

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Nan dropped the receiver of the listening-in device into the drawer as Morgan's body was outlined on the frosted glass of the outer door.

### THIS HAS HAPPENED

NAN CARROLL does not suspect that the cause of her happiness during the past three years as secretary to ATTORNEY JOHN CURTIS MORGAN is her love for Morgan until WILLIS TODD, an ardent suitor, faces her with the accusation. Then, though she despises herself for it, she is forced to admit to herself the truth of his accusation.

Because of Nan's brilliant mind Morgan depends on her to assist him with his cases, and she entirely justifies his confidence by bringing an important witness into his latest case, the defense of GRACE CO., indicted for blackmail, thus helping him to win a spectacular victory. She does not tell him, however, of a blackmail note addressed to him and containing a nasty insinuation about his beautiful and haughty wife.

To celebrate his court victory Morgan invites Nan and BERT CRAWFORD, a handsome, snobbish friend of Iris and Morgan, to dinner at his home. During the evening and dinner, Na has to endure the indifference of Crawford and of Iris who are suspiciously interested in each other. While they are dancing, a terror-stricken maid interrupts them and behind her stand a policeman and a detective who announce they have come with a warrant for Crawford's arrest.

The next morning's papers recount how Crawford has instigated a whirlwind stock-selling campaign to finance a packing plan merger and how his assistant treasurer, young ROY BLAND, has disappeared with half a million.

GLADYS PAYNE, secretary and alleged fiancée of Bland, insists Bland is innocent. Morgan goes to Crawford's bond and plans to defend him. Morgan, who has never defended a person he believes guilty, thus stakes his professional integrity on Crawford's innocence. Nan, who has written out a note of resignation because she cannot work for the man she loves, tells the note into bits. "With a faithless wife and a faithless friend you are going to need a faithful secretary," she whispers to herself.

**NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY**  
CHAPTER IX  
Within 10 days the grand jury had met and returned indictments against Herbert S. Crawford and Roy Bland, charging them with the embezzlement of nearly a quarter of a million dollars of the funds of the Mt. West Packing Company, of which the two had been president and treasurer respectively.

Roy Bland was still a fugitive from justice. A check-up at the union railroad station revealed that a man answering his description had bought a one-way ticket to

New York on the night that Bland was supposed to have left for Chicago on business for his firm. But since he had had 10 days before the audit of the books had revealed the shortage, it was generally conceded that Bland had immediately left New York by steamer for parts unknown. Police raffles to all ships at sea had resulted in exactly nothing, but in the interval Bland had had time to land and disappear.

Crawford's trial was set for September 19, a date which suited John Curtis Morgan well enough, since there was amazingly little he could do by way of preparation. "They can't have anything on me, Jack, because I haven't done anything wrong. I never drew a penny of that money out of the bank; I never touched a penny of it after Bland drew it; I never authorized his drawing it, and did not know that he had done so. I haven't a dollar in the bank that I can't account for legitimately."

The first time he made this sweeping statement Morgan interrupted: "How did it happen that Bland, as treasurer, could sign and cash checks for such huge amounts? It's usual, I believe, for all corporations to be required on two signatures."

"When we first organized, that was the case," Crawford acknowledged readily. "My signature and his were required by the by-laws, but I had to be out of town so much that I asked the board of directors to amend the by-laws so that Bland's signature alone was enough. He was bonded, you know. The company won't lose the whole quarter of a million."

It was a newspaper story that revealed the fact that the cashier of the bank, upon Bland's presentation of the last check for \$100,000, had hesitated to cash it and had taken it upon himself to telephone Crawford for additional authority.

"Wolfe, the cashier, says that he spoke to you personally on the home, and that you O. K'd the check," Morgan told Crawford. "That is one of the prosecution's rump cards, of course. What about Bert?"

The blue eyes looked blank with surprise, but utterly unafraid. "That's simply not true, Jack. I've never spoken with Wolfe over the telephone in my life. I've talked with him at the bank, of course, but he never got me when he called—if he did call."

phoned you was presented by Bland in person on Wednesday, November 9. A pretty cool customer, that Bland the check was presented at five minutes of three, Wolfe says. Get your business engagement book or your desk calendar, Bert, and see if you have an alibi for that time. If you were not in your office between two and three o'clock, or if someone was with you who can testify in your behalf, we'll spike their biggest gun."

So far as newspaper accounts were concerned, however, there was one big disappointment. Gladys Payne, Bland's erstwhile secretary and fiancée, chattered not at all for publication, and it was largely on Miss Payne's testimony that the indictment had been secured. If rumor was to be trusted.

The day after the bank cashier's story appeared in the paper Crawford admitted to Morgan that, so far as his desk calendar showed, he had had no engagement between half-past two and three o'clock on Wednesday, November 9.

"But of course that doesn't mean I was necessarily in my office," Crawford pointed out. "Good Lord! How can I remember what I was doing that particular half-hour? There was nothing to fix it in my mind, as there could have been if Wolfe had actually talked to me on the phone."

Nan was present at the conference. "Your switchboard operator always asks who's calling, doesn't she? Perhaps she will remember whether you were in or not. She would call your private office before putting the call through, of course."

Morgan shook his head gloomily. "Brainard will already have got hold of her. But we may as well ask her to come over. Were you and she good friends, Bert?"

Bert Crawford flushed, then laughed. "A dirty crack, Jack. Always suspecting me of sheeking. But seriously, little Alice Belton is a friend of mine. I believe. Let's have her over."

## Communication Systems Under Federal Study

### Investigation of Wire and Wireless Field Due in Next Congress; Merger Movement Will Be Analyzed.

By JOSEPH H. BAIRD  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
WASHINGTON, July 19. (U.P.)—Preparations for a thorough investigation of the entire communications field, including wire and wireless, both domestic and international, and the interstate transmission of power, are being made by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

When the committee convenes at the next regular session of congress in December it is to begin immediate consideration of the bill of Senator James Couzens, republican of Michigan, for creation of a Federal commission on communications.

Before its adjournment in June the committee received power to subpoena witnesses. Many of these it is expected, will be called, and in connection with the bill the committee expects to survey carefully the entire "set-up" of American communications systems.

This commission on communications, according to opinion in Senatorial circles, will be one of the most powerful agencies ever created by the American government. As the "interstate commerce commission of wire and wireless" it will have authority to fix rates, determine traffic conditions, approve or disapprove of mergers—in short, to control the communications field.

Two subjects on which the committee may seek further light are: first, the "patent pool" arrangement by which the Radio Corporation of America collects royalties from manufacturers of radio receiving sets second, the connection—if any—between the various communication companies.

Regarding the other phases of the Committee's investigation, interest will center on the connections, if any, between American and foreign telegraph, cable, telephone and wireless companies.

Under the present radio law, mergers between wire and wireless interests are prohibited. One effect of the Couzens bill, it is believed in Senatorial circles, may be the abolition of this prohibition.

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## Vegas' Growth Is Shown by Great City Permit Jump

Either Las Vegas' business has grown by leaps and bounds since 1928 or the diligence of Police Chief Percy Nash in collecting city licenses is having genuine effect—both, in all probability.

To date since July 1 nearly a third as many business licenses have been paid for this quarter as were paid during the entire year of 1928, according to figures dug up yesterday by Mrs. Viola Burns, city clerk.

There have been 342 licenses paid so far for this quarter, whereas for the whole of 1928 there were but 1072, it was shown.

## Newton Talks Of Texas Trip

At the meeting of Las Vegas Rotary Club Thursday, the luncheon was made more pleasant by a report brought by Walt Houck from southern Utah where he had been on a fishing trip. The courtesy was much appreciated and is taking on the status of an annual event.

K. O. Knudson, presiding in the absence of President-elect Wm. S. Park, called upon Raby "Fig" Newton to report on his honeymoon trip from which he has just returned.

Fig, who was the delegate of the Las Vegas club to the Rotary National Convention at Dallas, saved his convention report for the next meeting, but told of the fine hospitality and enterprise of the people of Dallas.

In concluding, he read the following amusing and interesting piece of publicity which was circulated among the delegates:

TEXAS occupies all of the continent of North America except a small part set aside for the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Texas owns the north half of the Rio Grande, one of the few rivers in the world with one bank wet and the other dry. Texas is bounded on the north by 25 or 30 states, on the east by all the oceans except the Pacific, on the south by the Gulf of Mexico and South America, and on the west by the Pacific ocean and the rest of the world.

Underneath Texas they have at this writing been down only 8,000 feet or so for oil, and up in the air Texas has in Guadalupe Peak, 5,500 feet above sea level, the highest hill in the United States east of the Rockies.

## Kaiser's Exile To End Monday As Act Expires

### But Wilhelm Is Not Likely to Return to Germany; Reichstag Has Heated Debate on Measure.

By FREDERICK KUH  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
BERLIN, July 19. (U.P.)—The question as to whether the former Kaiser will return to Germany has arisen again because, on Monday, the Defense of the Republic law will expire and the virtual exile of the monarch will come to an end.

It is considered extremely doubtful, however, if Wilhelm intends to leave Doorn and return to the land over which he once reigned.

Von Linderer-Wildau, a Nationalist, has informed the United Press that he believes the failure to prolong the Defense of the Republic act would have no practical effect.

One of the reichstag's most heated debates occurred over the government's measure to have the act prolonged. The vote was 283 for and 166 against, but a two-thirds majority was necessary for passage.

The Nationalists battled stubbornly against the prolongation of the law, principally, it was believed because of the so-called "Kaiser Paragraph." The Fascists and Communists, as well as members of the economic party, voted against the bill.

The Nationalists fought so hard against the measure, Von Linderer-Wildau said, only to defeat the discriminatory legislation against the former ruler, restoring him at least to the privileges of ordinary German citizens and permitting him to live on German soil.

More-over, he added, it will remove the stigma which the law hitherto had affixed to the one-time emperor.

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Taxes are levied in the form of copra in the Gilbert Islands, a little known group of the south seas.

Rogers Park, a Chicago community, forbids the wearing of sun-back bathing suits.

The German Reichbahn, or federal railway, carries 2,000,000,000 travelers a year.

One year after reaching peak production, the average oil well shows a decline of 60 per cent.

### CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Berdo Forest Fire Now Under Control

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif., July 19. (U.P.)—Flames which have ravaged the Santa Ana Canyon section in the San Bernardino national forest since Monday were under control today, Forest officials stated, though conditions still were bad. Humidity was low, and several weeks of rain will be necessary to stamp out embers of the blaze.

With the main fire stopped ten miles from the Big Bear dam, the fire fighters turned to a small brush fire covering 80 acres of Keller creek. A few men were released this morning.

Highway construction provides employment for 6,000 men in Illinois.

he called me and talked to me on the phone on Wednesday afternoon, November 9. I never received an such call—get me?"

Alice: "But, Bert, I remember putting the call through—honest, and I asked you if you wanted to speak to Mr. Wolfe, and you said—"

# it's not too late....

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