

WHERE'S EMILY?

by Carolyn Wells

CHAPTER XL

Sally greeted the trio with warmest welcome, ordered refreshments for them, put Betty in a big lounge chair, with pillows about her, and turned her attention to Fleming Stone.

"You're splendid!" she said, as she shook her black Dutch bob at him. "I knew you'd be like this, you superman, you!"

She shepherded him to a sofa, and seated herself beside him.

"Now, let me help," she pleaded, with earnest eyes. "I'm sure I can."

Her style and manner were saved from blatant vulgarity by the fact of her obvious sincerity. There was no trace of self-consciousness or intentional posing about her. She was really what she seemed to be, and in spite of her absurd talk, Stone rather liked her.

"If you can help me," he said, giving her one of his best magnetic smiles. "It will be by giving me side-lights on the 'principals' in these two cases. We need not waste words, tell me what you think of first regarding Emily Duane."

"Her nullish obstinacy," Miss Kirk returned without an instant's hesitation. "It is not a bad trait, yet sometimes she carries it so far that it works ill to herself."

"That might well be a factor in her disappearance," suggested Stone.

"I suppose so, though I don't see how. Next, I'd put her sense of justice and right. Not everybody appreciates that in Emily, but it's there. She'd be a martyr to a cause if she felt it her duty."

"Surprising in such a young girl."

"Emily isn't such a young girl—she's twenty-two—"

"Young for martyrdom," and Stone smiled again.

"Well, then, after that comes Emily's loyalty to her friends, but we all have that and of course, loyalty to Hildale and its people and its traditions and its ways."

"All right for Miss Duane. Now do up Mrs. Pennington."

"Nice, good, clever, but shattered mentally, morally and physically by the loss of her baby. I never knew anyone to take on as she did or to have the melancholia last so long. She couldn't help it. We often talked it over, you see. And she would promise to try to forget, and to try to take more interest in social doings and in public things and all that. She did get interested in the hospital, but when that was finished and dedicated, she sank back right into what you call it—a sort of neuritic apathy, I guess."

"All right, she's doctored. Now, Mr. Pennington?"

"Jim? Oh, he's a good sort. Stuck on himself, thinks he's a genius, fond of his wife, not interested in other ladies, no real faults, I should say, except a—well, a nervous superiority, that makes him look down on everybody who isn't in his class mentally."

"Thinks other people morose?"

"Not quite that, but pretty nearly. I'm not surprised that he lit out of here after Pauline's death. She acted as a sort of balance wheel. Now he'll probably fly to pieces."

"Next, His Majesty the Swami," Stone suggested, enjoying himself hugely. He really did want to get any possible side-lights on these chief actors in the drama that engrossed him, but he was also interested in this woman who was so outspoken, and yet so just and honest.

"Oh, him!" she spoke contemptuously. "The less said about Lal Singh the better."

"Why, won't he flirt with you?" put in Betty, her eyes round with pretended innocence.

Sally Kirk made a face at her and proceeded to tell Stone her woes.

"The chit has struck it," she said, with an enormous sigh. "The darling of the gods won't play with me much. But it's because I see through him and he knows it."

"You don't believe in him, then?"

"Believe in a man who talks about the Constellatory Practice and the Talamantic Magic! Would you?"

"You seem to know a bit yourself, Miss Kirk."

"I know enough to distinguish an honest student of occult lore from the fraudulent confidence man, making dupes wherever he goes."

"Did Miss Duane agree with your sentiments regarding the Hindu?"

"No, I think not. But that was because she never looked into the matter deeply. Like most of Hildale, she was carried away by the glamour of his turban and the glory of his swishing white robe, and, too, she was busied with her wedding matters, and never took Lal seriously."

"She agreed to give him a legacy in her will—"

"Yes, and if you forget deep enough into the matter, you'll find that he is at the head of the plot to kill the Oriental either has killed Emily, thinking he can thereby get that money, or he has her held somewhere for ransom!"

Fleming Stone permitted himself to stare at the speaker. She had raised her voice, she had almost lost control of her temper. Her face was white and drawn and Stone began to be afraid she would work herself up to a nervous frenzy.

So with gracious tact, but with steady determination, he made his adieux, and left the house. Betty and Pete following in his footsteps.

"Ain't she the corker?" exclaimed Pete, as soon as they were out of earshot.

"She's a wonder!" agreed Fleming Stone.

"Did she help you?" asked Betty.

"She helped me a heap. Come on, let's go home now." So they went home.

The police, jointly and severally, had made up their minds as to the facts of Pauline Pennington's death. They were certain that Emily Duane in a moment of impulsive anger had pushed her over the rail and then, horrified and frightened at what she had done, had run away to hide.

They reconstructed the crime to their own satisfaction, timing it to coincide with Jim Pennington's absence at the Wallace shop. They were sure that Emily came along just after he had left his wife, and that the two women quarreled, and that Emily, with her quick temper and her active muscles, had given the other a push that sent her to her death.

This, they conceded, was probably impulsive and not intentional, but perhaps Mrs. Pennington was standing insecurely, and the rail of that bridge was admittedly rather low. As she went over, they assumed, she had clutched at Emily, grasping her fur collar, and all so the necklace, which broke in her hand, and a portion of it went over with her.

"That's how it all happened, no two ways about it," Lawlor told Fleming Stone, who listened with interest.

"But I've been checking up on Miss Duane's character and characteristics," he argued, "and she doesn't seem to me the sort of girl who would run away."

"Yeah, that's the way you Hildalutin' tees do, size up a person's character and call it law and gospel. Why there's no telling what anybody will do in the face of a real emergency like that. Any way, we can't do anything till we get hold of Miss Duane, and then you bet we'll arrest her, mighty quick."

But Fleming Stone did not entirely agree with the police.

After his trip around Hildale with Betty and Pete, he retired to his own rooms for a long think over the matter.

At tea time he reappeared, but he was not in jubilant mood, by any means.

Aunt Judy, who had learned already to read the signs of his face pined him with tea and muffins, and wisely forebore all reference to his work.

"I've been in Miss Duane's rooms," he said, at last, "and I find nothing there to change my leads of her. She is impulsive, even erratically so, but I am more than ever convinced that she never left Hildale voluntarily. She was carried off by force, or carried off involuntarily by trickery."

"Can't you form any idea of the villain back of it?" asked Rodney.

"I would like to kill him myself."

"Don't fling around suggestions of killing, young man. You well know, if you kill anybody you're fairly likely to get punished for it. Yes, I have an idea of the villain back of all this, but the idea is founded entirely on theory and imagination, and they are vague theories to work with. If I could get some tangible bit of evidence now."

"What about Lal Singh?" Pete asked, thoughtfully. "Say, he abducted Emily, not for the legacy, that's too far-fetched, but for her diamonds. I think that chap is a real crook."

"But he seems to have an alibi," Stone said. "You can't imagine him setting Miss Duane away—"

"Yes I can," Pete interrupted. "He didn't have to do the bandit act, you know. Say he lured her somewhere, on some pretext—the women follow wherever he beckons—and then shut her up, or sent her away, or did whatever abductors do with their victims."

(To Be Continued Monday)
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EDDY'S TAXPAYER LAW KNOCKED OUT

SALEM, Ore., June 27.—In opinion written by Chief Justice C. show the supreme court today upheld a \$35,000 bond issue of the city of Cottage Grove. The opinion holds unconstitutional the Eddy act of the 1929 legislature providing that a person who votes on measures requiring bond issues or special tax levy must be taxpayer.

Suit challenging the Cottage Grove bond election was brought by O. O. Veatch. The opinion affirms the lower court for Lane county.

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Did she help you?" asked Betty.

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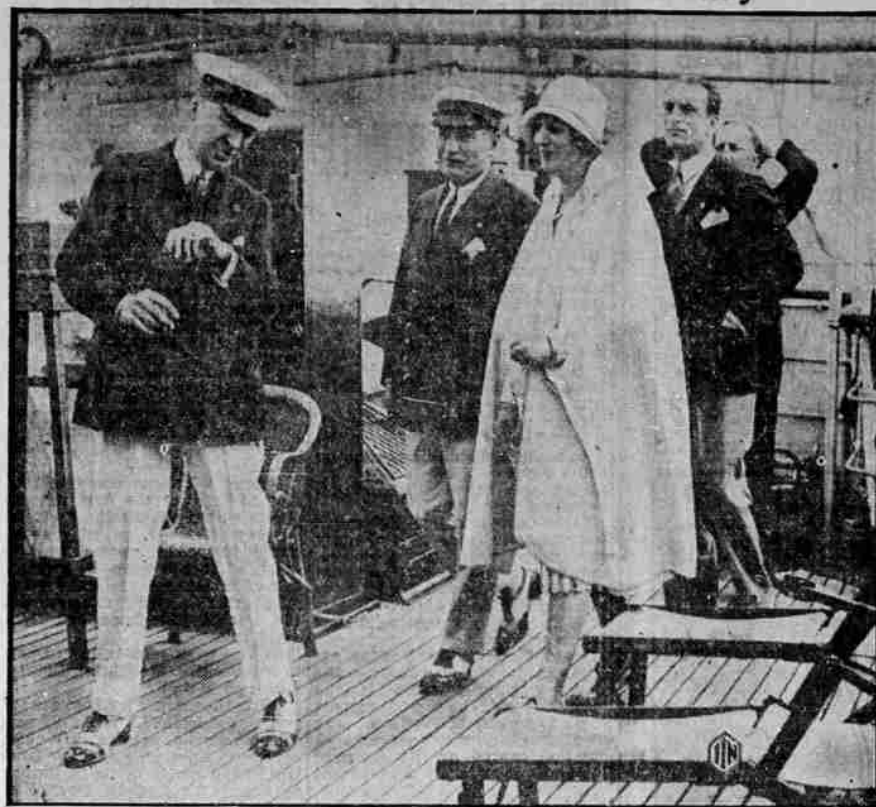
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Electrical and Political Wizards of Italy



Guglielmo Marconi, Italy's wizard of the wireless (left), with Benito Mussolini, premier of Italy, and the Marchese Marconi, aboard Marconi's yacht the "Electra" during the visit on the vessel of Mussolini. The premier evinced much interest in the electrical contraptions with which the ship abounds, and he spoke to the London office of Marconi from the ship's wireless room.

METHODISTS HIT MOVIES, ENDORSE DRY ENFORCEMENT

ASTORIA, June 27.—Action on recommendations concerning agencies promoting the enforcement of the eighteenth amendment and condemning the motion picture industry, drafted yesterday by the temperance, prohibition and public morals committee of the Oregon Methodist Episcopal church, will be taken today.

The committee, headed by Dr. Clarence True Wilson, Washington, D. C., general secretary of the church's national board, recommended that the work of the W. C. T. U. and the anti-saloon league was "most commendable" and a copy of the resolution be forwarded to congress.

The same resolution claimed the American motion picture industry "is undermining the Christian influence of home and church, men acting law abiding citizenship and misrepresenting American life to the nations of the world."

The resolution continued that "repeated efforts to improve the moral standards of motion pictures by cooperation with the industry have failed to secure the desired results," and "therefore be it resolved that we cooperate with the federal motion picture council of America in its effort to obtain passage of a bill declaring the motion picture a public utility and providing for a federal motion picture commission to regulate the trade practices of the industry."

Salem and Eugene continued bidding for the 1931 conference.

A. A. A. IN CRUSADE ON ALL HOODO SIGNS

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 25.—State highway officials interested in safety and in preventing the degradation of the nation's highways, were urged by the American Automobile Association today to launch an immediate investigation into signs erected by religious fanatics along many of the heavily traveled roads of the United States.

The A. A. A. protest is based on letters from scores of motorists who express strong disapproval of signs suggesting "violent death" at the next turn of the road.

"These signs," said the national motorizing body, "are apparently erected by cranks who take ghoulish glee in spreading, not a gospel of peace and good will, but a message surcharged with the suggestion of violence and disaster."

Pointing out that for the most part these signs are erected on private property, the A. A. A. asserted that they are strongly reprobated by highway authorities and frowned on by the authorized speakers for the various churches.

The statement continued: "The wording of the signs varies but little, while the ghoulish suggestion is always there, to wit, 'Death Awaits You Around the Corner'."

GREAT AIRPLANE SHOW PLANNED IN NORTHWEST AREA

PORTLAND, June 27.—Russell Lawson, aeronautical governor of Oregon of the National Aeronautical society, and member of the aero club, said today plans for the northwest Pacific air tour will be completed in a week. Eighteen cities in Oregon and Washington have asked to participate and others are expected to offer facilities of their airports. The tour will start the last week in July and continue through August.

More than 50 types of planes will be represented. Lawson said the purpose of the tour is to demonstrate airworthiness of present day equipment, test emergency airfield facilities and prove the reliability of planes in the hands of competent pilots. Stunt teams will accompany the tour and will stage shows over each field.

Sanction of the National Aeronautical society will be asked for the event.

Cities included in the itinerary to date are: Tacoma, Kelso, Vancouver, Wash.; Silverton, Springfield, Tillamook, Eugene, Salem, Medford, Klamath Falls, Baker, La Grande, Burns, Pendleton, Port City, Yakima, Wenatchee and Pasco.

See the electrical theft signal for automobiles, 100% protection against theft, demonstrated at the Roseburg Garage—Adv.

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FEDERAL INJUNCTION HITS ALLEGED WOOL MONOPOLY

(Associated Press Leased Wire) NEW YORK, June 26.—The federal government today yesterday to end what it charges is a wool

MILK SUBSTITUTES FOR WATER WHEN FLAMES MENACE

Creation of Fire Districts Outside of Incorporated Towns Explained by State Marshal.

(Associated Press Leased Wire) SALEM, Ore., June 26.—Milk is just as good as water for putting out fires, Clare A. Lee, state fire marshal, said. On at least two occasions since the organization of rural fire department in Oregon under an act of the 1929 legislature, Lee said, the pumpers have run out of water and availed themselves of a milk supply, each time saving serious destruction.

Once in Yamhill county a pumper rushed to a fire and found a water shortage. A truck load of milk was passing. The driver turned into the farmyard, poured cans of milk into a trough and the fire was soon under control.

Under the 1929 act authorizing the organization of rural fire protection districts seven county departments have already been organized in the state. Headquarters of the departments may either be established in the country or the equipment may be kept at a convenient town fire station. The seven departments so far organized are at Corvallis, Junction City, McMinnville, Newberg, Molalla, Forest Grove and Hillsboro.

Could Save Grain

The act contemplates the organization of departments at 10 mile intervals throughout the state and Lee said he hoped ultimately to reach this goal. Wheat growers in eastern Oregon are beginning to see the possibilities of the act and it is believed fire districts in that part of the state would save thousands of acres of ripened grain from destruction each summer. Many of the pumpers are equipped with large tanks so an initial water supply can be taken directly to the fire.

Convenient wells or ponds may be utilized and some farmers build tanks near their buildings.

Act Is Explained

In an organized district that meets all requirements of the state department, Lee said, an insurance rate discount is 10 cents on the rate basis and for contents 15 cents with the exception of hay and grain.

The act is designed to provide for protection of property outside the incorporated cities and towns. When the property owners within the proposed district decide to organize, they petition the county court. If the written objections of property owners representing at least 50 per cent of the total assessed property valuation within the districts are filed with the court the law requires the court to call a special election on the question.

Districts may be furnished and financed in any manner agreeable to the people. They may issue bonds, levy taxes not in excess of 2 mills, borrow money not to exceed \$10,000, raise the money by subscription or accept gifts.

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HIGH SEAS FISH NOT DUTIABLE IN U. S., IS DECISION

(Associated Press Leased Wire) WASHINGTON, June 27.—The treasury today issued orders that fish caught on high seas by alien residents of the United States may be brought into this country free of customs duties. The order was issued by Assistant Secretary Lowman and rescinds orders under which duties would have to be paid.

Commissioner Eble of the customs bureau immediately issued orders to customs collectors fish caught beyond the three mile limit by resident aliens in small undocumented vessels are not subject to duty when brought into the United States. His order revokes treasury department orders which held fish caught beyond the three mile limit by resident aliens should be assessed.

The question as to whether fish caught upon the high seas should be assessed when brought into port first was raised by the collector of customs at Portland, Oregon.

He notified the treasury department on May 28 complaints had been filed by resident alien fishermen against the practice of assessing duty upon fish caught beyond the three mile limit.

The treasury department referred the matter to the attorney general who while not rendering an opinion wrote the department he believed fish caught on the high seas by resident aliens in small undocumented vessels should not be subject to duty and he recommended the revocation of the previous order.

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Thin model pocket watches with high grade American movement of 19-jewel adjusted grade, steel escape wheel and micrometer regulator in highly engraved gold filled case. Special price \$14.95. Strap—Pocket—and Wrist Watches at Special Prices.

WATER SETS OF COLORED GLASSWARE

Pitcher and eight glasses of large capacity, regular price \$6.50. A few sets at special \$4.95.

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5-day Dresser Clocks that will look well and run well for years, some in colored leather cases at one-half price. Striking and Chinese Clocks in fine mahogany and oak cases and Banjo styles. Now you can buy one of these very fine clocks at a price you would pay for an inferior clock. If you are interested in a new clock for your home this is an opportunity to buy a Mantel Clock for as low as \$1.95.

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