

THE KENNEL MURDER CASE

By S. S. Van Dine

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(Continued from last week)

We walked with the garrulous Enright back to his apartment house and took leave of him. When we were in the district attorney's car, headed down town, Vance spoke, and his voice was troubled. "Something queer about that dog, Markham—something deuced queer. Why should he be timid? Why should he distrust and fear strangers? It's not like a Doberman to act that way. . . . Something has happened to him. He's had a blighting experience of some kind. . . ."

Markham beat an annoyed tattoo on the window ledge of the car. "Yes, yes, it's very sad, I suppose. But what possible connection can there be between a shy Doberman in Central Park West and the murder of Archer Coe?"

"I haven't the vaguest notion," Vance returned cheerfully. "But there are only two dogs in this case, and one of them is browbeaten and timid, and the other is viciously wounded."

"Pretty far fetched," Markham gumbled.

Vance sighed.

"I dare say. But so are the circumstances surrounding the murders themselves." He lit a fresh cigarette and glanced at his watch. "It's drawing on toward dinner time. Does that tempt you?"

"I'll open a bottle of that '95 Chateau-Yquem you're so fond of."

"You cheer me, old man," Markham gave an order to the chauffeur.

"Ah, a bit of forgetfulness—eh, what? Quite right you are. There'll be nothing to irk us till tomorrow."

But Vance was mistaken. That night the Coe case entered a new and most sinister phase. It was exactly half-past two in the morning when Vance's private phone rang. It woke him from a deep sleep, and it was several minutes before he could answer it. Markham's voice. "Vance, I carried the portable phone set to his room and handed it to him in bed. He listened a brief minute, then he set the instrument on the floor, yawned, stretched, and threw back the bedclothes.

"Dash it all, Van!" he complained, as he rang for Currie. "Grassi has been stabbed!"

When Vance and I arrived at the Coe house, Markham and Sergeant Heath were already on their feet. There was a detective from the homicide bureau sitting glumly on the front steps.

We went to the second floor, walked back toward the front of the house, and entered the quarters. The curtains were drawn and all the lights were on.

Heath and Markham stood at the foot of Grassi's bed, looking at the prostrate figure lying there. Sitting in a straight chair, on the opposite side of the bed, was a capable-looking man of about forty.

"This is Doctor Lobsenz," Markham informed Vance. "Gambie called him in."

Doctor Lobsenz looked up, nodded, and went on about his work with swift efficiency.

Grassi lay on his back, clad in white silk pajamas. He was ghastly pale, and the arm nearest us rested restlessly on the sheets, like that of a person under the influence of hypnosis. There was an area of blood, perhaps 12 inches in diameter, on the sheet at his left side nearest the doctor. His pajama coat was also stained with blood. His eyes were closed but his lips were moving incoherently.

Presently the doctor rose.

"I think that's all I can do for him at the minute, Mr. Markham," he said. "I'll send for the ambulance immediately."

Markham nodded. "Thank you, Doctor."

Then he turned to Vance. "Grassi was stabbed through the left arm. Doctor Lobsenz says it is not a dangerous wound." Grassi's eyes were closed as Grassi's face. Without looking up he spoke. "Just what is the nature of the wound, doctor?"

"He was stabbed at the outer border of the biceps tendon, where it crosses the dimple of the axillary cubital fossa. The thrust punctured the median basilic vein and caused a profuse hemorrhage. But it luckily missed the basilic artery."

"What shaped weapon would you say was used?" asked Vance.

"The doctor hesitated.

"The wound was a bit ragged, and of a rather peculiar conformation; it was not made with a knife, but with some instrument like a very thick awl."

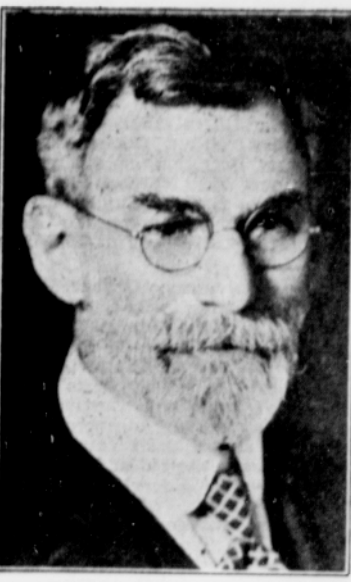
"Could it have been a small dagger with a diamond-shaped blade?"

"Yes, very easily."

Vance nodded. "You're taking him to the hospital?"

"Yes, immediately," the doctor told him. "I gave him three grains of sodium-amylal by mouth. It'll quiet him tonight and he'll be able to return here tomorrow. His arm will be in a sling for a few days,

Heads Pioneers



L. E. Wilkes who was re-elected president of the Washington County Pioneers and Native Sons and Daughters association Sunday.

—into the hall; and the butler—upstairs—answered me. I sat down on the edge of the bed and waited until he arrived. . . .

"Did anyone else answer your summons?"

"No. The butler went immediately to the telephone in the hall, downstairs, and I could hear him summoning medical assistance."

Vance rose slowly and walked to a beautiful old Boulle cabinet between the two east windows, and ran his fingers over the inlay.

"I say, Mr. Grassi—" he spoke without turning round—"what about that blood-stained bath towel in the hamper?"

Grassi glanced up with more alertness than he had shown at any time during the conversation.

"There was a bath towel on this little stand beside the bed," he explained. "You see, I have no private bath and the butler always leaves my bath towel at night. When I arose I wrapped it around my arm."

"Ah, yes—quite so." Vance turned from the Boulle cabinet and walked toward the door. "That accounts for the fact that there are no bloodstains on the floor."

Vance was now inspecting the lock on the door.

"How did it happen, Mr. Grassi," he asked in an offhand manner, "that you didn't lock your door before you said your prayers and went to bed last night?"

"The lock does not work," Grassi returned in a tone of injured defiance.

At this moment a siren was heard in the street, and Vance went to the front window and looked out.

"The ambulance is here," he announced. "We hope, Mr. Grassi, that you have a quiet night, and that we will see you tomorrow feeling quite yourself again."

Doctor Lobsenz appeared at the door with Gambie.

"Through with my patient!" he asked. "If so, I'll get some cloths on him and take him along."

Vance nodded.

"Thank you, Doctor, and good luck. . . . And now, Markham, suppose we go downstairs to the library and do a bit of thinking—although it's a beastly hour for meditation. . . ."

(To be continued)

Program Held at Rock Creek

People Leave on Southern Trip; Ribs Fractured

(By Mrs. Frank Penold)

ROCK CREEK—A program was given by the Sunday schools of the Phillips and Helvetia Reformed churches at their annual picnic in the grove by the paragon Sunday. Rev. Frensenberg gave a talk on the Sunday school topic. Other features included song by Mr. and Mrs. John Boeckl, and Madeline Boeckl, solo by Paul Boeckl, and several selections played by the Helvetia band. Attending the picnic from a distance were Mrs. James Chaney, Mrs. Ernest Amacher and Margaret Berger of Portland and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Amacher and family of Hillsboro.

M. M. Miner of Astoria was a house guest of Mrs. Nicholas Kies last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Ryan and Tommy and Barbara Jean Ryan left for Oakland, Cal., Saturday. They have been visiting Mrs. Ryan's mother, Mrs. Bertha Dailey of near Orendo. Mrs. Dailey is a former resident of this section.

From Forest Grove: Howard Busch to Black Rock, Harold Lackey to Camp Hilgard, Arthur Young to Camp Trask, Nehalem; and Russell Hines and Ray Sutton to Camp Cascade Locks.

Last Session Held by Lodge

Children's Day Program at North Plains Sunday

(By North Plains P. T. A.)

NORTH PLAINS—Friendship Temple, Pythian Sisters, held its last meeting until after the summer vacation Friday evening. The table was decorated with small flags and baskets of flowers. Committee in charge of refreshments were Mesdames Elmer Joss, Ray Jackson and Miss Anna Joss. Miss Eugenie Cypher was elected as delegate to Grand Temple and Mrs. Henry Cypher, alternate.

Mr. and Mrs. Loel Hollenbeck, Mrs. Henry Cypher, Mrs. J. R. Sandford and Miss Eugenie Cypher attended a Pythian Sister meeting in Portland June 19. The meeting was in honor of the Supreme Chief, Kate Davies, of Canada.

Club Has Meet

The North Plains Canning and Cooking club, under the leadership of Mrs. Elmer Mays and Mrs. Lester Cypher met at the home of Miss Edna Sohl Monday afternoon. Miss Marjorie Moeck demonstrated the canning of cherries, followed by discussion of the activities of summer school.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Trenchard were Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lambert and family of Oswego and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert and family of Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Davis of Bonneville visited Mr. and Mrs. R. Sandford Saturday night. Glen Sandford, who has been visiting for the past two weeks, returned home with them.

Return East

Mrs. Marie Guilmaine, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Emil Miller, left Sunday for her home in New York. They spent several days last week visiting the beaches. While at Depoe Bay, Mr. Miller went deep sea fishing and caught a large salmon.

Mr. Babcock and son Kenneth and wife of Portland spent Sunday at the Emil Miller home.

Mrs. Dorothy Miller is spending a few weeks at the home of her son, Emil.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cutting of Progress, attended the wedding of Mr. Brown's nephew, Charles Brown.

Many County CCC Men Transferred

Residents of 22 communities, the majority in Washington and Columbia counties, are included among the men transferred. A list of Washington county men moved, and a list of their new companies follow:

From Forest Grove: Howard Busch to Black Rock, Harold Lackey to Camp Hilgard, Arthur Young to Camp Trask, Nehalem; and Russell Hines and Ray Sutton to Camp Cascade Locks.

From Hillsboro: Harold Carlile to Black Rock; James Fleming and William Stunkard to Camp Trask; William Meyer to Saddle Mountain; F. G. Peters, Orville Peterson and William Phelps to Camp Nehalem; Fred Stamess to Camp Hilgard; and Sven Norberg and Joe Kaufman to Cascade Locks.

From Beaverton: James Bridgman to Black Rock and Alfred Heft to Camp Hilgard.

From Westman: Lloyd Timber; Lloyd Farmer, William Thomas and Cecil Olyer to Cascade Locks; Orlando Farmer and Merle Finet to Trask; Garyle Scott and M. Shewey to Nehalem; Andrew Barrett to Camp Silver Creek Falls near Salem.

From Sherwood: Lyman Murdoch to Saddle Mountain; Chester Haven to Hilgard; and George Kaster to Emigrant Springs camp near Meacham.

From Buxton: LeRoy Hershey to Hilgard; and Samuel Peterson to Nehalem.

From Bacona: Sarling Homes to Cascade Locks.

From Quincy: Raymond Price to Camp Nehalem.

From Tigard: Robert Albertson to Silver Creek Falls.

From Birkenfeld: Michael Kroll to Emigrant Springs; Edward St. Clair and Claude Irwin to Hilgard.

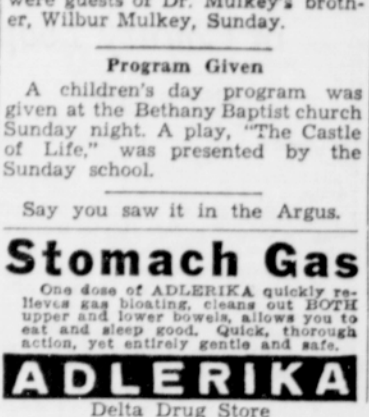
From Gaston: Arlie Hankins to Trask and Lewis VanWinkle to Black Rock.

From Dilley: Adolph Miller to Saddle Mountain.

From Metzger: Ray Moser to Saddle Mountain.

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Goddess Nominee at Union Meeting

Miss Margaret Batchelder, candidate for Goddess of Liberty at the Hillsboro Fourth of July celebration, was introduced at the social meeting of the West Union unit of the Farmers' Union Thursday night. Two new members were taken in during the business session. Date of the county Farmers' Union picnic has been tentatively set July 29 at Rippling Waters. Clyde Lincoln has charge of buying and making the coffee.

Next meeting will be July 11 instead of the first Thursday of the month.

"In times of depression and quietness of trade I used to prepare for better times which never failed to come,"—Andrew Carnegie.

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Hayward School Names Officials

HAYWARD—Annual school meeting was held at the school Monday June 17. Clarence Uplikke was elected director for three years and James Reppeto for one year, Otto Timmerman chairman and Albert Jesse clerk.

Willis Hiatt of Stringtown visited the W. R. Hudson home June 17.

Axel Pederson sold his strawberries to Charles Swecker of near Manning. Mr. Swecker had his pickers harvesting the berries last week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Jesse and son Albert and Mrs. Ida Brandenburg visited at the Walter Willis home in Gales Creek June 16.

Emma Williams of Hillside visited.

Rebekahs Honor Assembly Officer

SOUTH SCHOLLS—Ruby Meyers was given a surprise flower shower at a recent meeting of Ruby Rebekah lodge, and presented with a flower vase, in honor of having been appointed O. G. of the Rebekah Assembly of Oregon at Salem last month. Visitors from Newberg were present. Refreshments were served after lodge by Mrs. C. W. Larkin, Mrs. J. E. Flint and Mrs. H. T. Hesse. The hall was decorated with flowers.

The Rebekah Club of Scholls has been invited to meet with Mrs. Rollin Meyers at Laurel Friday.

Fir Grove Dairy Starts Orange Juice Delivery

New innovation in the local dairy business was introduced this week by the Fir Grove dairy in the form of the delivery of pure orange juice house to house, to stores, restaurants, etc. The juice is from tree-ripened oranges and can be furnished in quantities ranging from one-half pint to any number of gallons.

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