

THE KENNEL MURDER CASE

By S. S. Van Dine

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(Continued from last week) CHAPTER X

The Scottie's Trail

At nine o'clock the following morning Vance called at the offices of the American Kennel club...

"Yes, yes, of course," he blustered, rising and walking toward the front steps...

"I-I—really— Are you—sure?" he stammered. "Oh, quite quite. As I told you, I have Miss MacTavish in my apartment now..."

"But how does it happen, Major?" Vance cut in placidly, "that you have not heard of the dog's absence from Miss Delafield's apartment?"

"The fact of the matter is—Higginbottom became apologetic—" Vance said, "that is, Miss Delafield—on my advice, left the dog in the care of her maid, who was to look after the apartment during her absence..."

"I called about six o'clock and we went out immediately. We had dinner—let me see—at a little restaurant—I suppose you might call it a night club—and we remained there until it was time to go to the boat..."

"What little restaurant was it?" Higginbottom knit his brow. "Really, Mr. Vance, I can't remember. He hesitated. 'You know, I'm not certain that it even had a name. It was a small place in the West Fifties—or was it the Forties? It was a place that had been recommended to Miss Delafield by a friend...'"

"Pray don't make apologies, Major," Vance put in. "What did you say the young lady's name was?" "Miss Doris Deafield—a nd a very fine young woman she is. Comes of an excellent family—" "And it was Miss Delafield to whom you gave the dog six months ago?"

"That's right. But I'm most anxious to keep the matter a secret. You see, Mr. Vance, I wouldn't care to have Mrs. Higginbottom know of it, as she might not understand exactly..."

"I'll be here all afternoon," Markham answered glumly. It was a pleasant drive to Mount Vernon, in the brisk October air. We had little difficulty in finding the Higginbottom estate, and we were lucky enough to find the major sitting on the big colonial front porch.

"To what do I owe the honor of this call, sir?" He spoke with hospitable good nature, and I am really delighted. You should come often—" "I'd be charmed," Vance sat down beside a small glass table. "But today, Major, if you see, I popped out here on a little matter of business. The truth is, I'm dashed interested in a Scottie bitch belonging to you—Miss MacTavish—who was shown at Englewood..."

"At the mention of the dog's name Higginbottom gave a loud cough, pushed his chair back with a scraping sound, and glanced over his shoulder to the open window leading into the house. The man seemed deeply perturbed, and his tone of voice and his manner, when he answered, struck me as most peculiar..."

"Yes, yes, of course," he blustered, rising and walking toward the front steps. "I rarely go to dog shows any more. By the way, Mr. Vance, I want to show you my roses—" And he walked down the stairs toward a small rose garden at the right.

"Vance lifted his eyebrows in mild astonishment and followed his host. When we were out of hearing of the house, the major placed his hand on Vance's shoulder and spoke confidentially: 'By gad, sir! I hope my wife didn't hear that question of yours. She's generally in the drawing room during the mornings, and the windows were open.' He appeared troubled. 'Yes, sir, it would be most annoying if she heard it. I didn't mean to be impolite, sir—no, sir, by gad—but you startled me a little. A most trying and delicate situation.' He put his head a little closer to Vance. 'Where did you hear of that little bitch of mine?—were you at the Englewood show?—and why should you be interested in it?' He glanced again over his shoulder toward the porch. 'George! I hope your question didn't reach my wife's ears.' Vance looked at the man quizzically.

"Come, come, Major," he said pleasantly. "It really can't be so serious. I was not at Englewood, and I never saw Miss MacTavish until the day before yesterday. The fact of the matter is, Major, your dog's name is in my apartment in New York."

"You don't say—in your apartment?" Higginbottom seemed vastly astonished. "How did she get there?—I don't understand at all. This is my private affair, Mr. Vance. Pray enlighten me."

Silver Wedding Date Observed

John Boecklis Given Surprise; Build Roof

(By Mrs. F. Pezoldt)

ROCK CREEK—Mr. and Mrs. John Boecklis were given a surprise on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary at their home on Brooks Hill Sunday. Present were members of the Phillips and Helvetia Reformed church and of the First Reformed church of Portland.

Rev. B. M. Frensenborg and Mrs. John Gutschmidt visited Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schnabele on Sauvies Island Friday. Mrs. John Fuegy and Carol Fuegy left Sunday for Agate beach for a week's stay with Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Dyalis Jr.

Miss Minnie Grossen of North Bend is visiting her cousin, Mrs. Christ Reichen, this week. Mrs. Walter Wismer of Hillsboro spent some time last week with her daughter, Mrs. Ben Leu, and family.

Peter Rahn visited at the William Payne home at Cedar Mill Sunday. Miss May Fuegy of Los Angeles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fuegy, arrived last week for a visit with her parents.

Jim Brooks of Brooks Hill sustained an injury to his eye, but is recovering. Gets New Roof Louis Pezoldt is having a new roof put on his house. Dave Hersey of Helvetia is helping him. Sylvan Nelson is employed in Portland and is driving back and forth to work.

Thatcher

(By Mrs. Lou Wright)

Everett Mott of Dallas is spending his vacation with his aunt, Mrs. Rex Oberman, and family. Mr. and Mrs. Lou Wright and Vance, this thing sounds rather serious. Would you mind if I accompanied you to the city? I myself would like to know why Annie didn't report to me the absence of the dog."

"I'd be delighted," Vance told him. We drove back to New York with Major Higginbottom and went direct to the Belle Maison. Annie Cochrane was a young darkhaired woman in her early thirties, obviously of Irish descent, and when, on opening the door to our room, she saw Major Higginbottom, she appeared frightened and flustered.

"Listen here, Annie," the major began aggressively. "Why didn't you let me know that Miss Delafield's dog had disappeared?" Annie explained stammeringly that she had been afraid to say anything about the dog's disappearance as she considered it her fault that the dog was gone, and that she had hoped from day to day that it would return. The woman was patently frightened.

"Just when did the dog disappear, Annie?" asked Vance in a consoling tone. "The woman looked up at him gratefully. 'I missed her, sir,' she said, 'just after Major Higginbottom and Miss Doris went out Wednesday night, at about nine o'clock, sir.' Vance turned to Higginbottom with a faint smile. 'Didn't I understand you to say that you went out a six o'clock, Major?'"

Before Higginbottom could answer, the maid blurted: "Oh, no, it wasn't six o'clock. It wasn't until nine o'clock. I got dinner for them here at little after eight." "The major looked down and stroked his chin cogitatively. "Yes, yes," he nodded. "That's right. I'd thought it was six o'clock, but now I remember. An excellent dinner you prepared that night, Annie." He looked up at Vance with a smile of nonchalant frankness. "Sorry to have misinformed you, Mr. Vance. The—ah—incident rather slipped my memory. . . . I had intended to take Miss Delafield out to dinner. But when I arrived Annie had prepared everything for us, so we changed our plans."

Vance appeared to accept his explanation without question. (To be continued)

Buxton Group Plans Picnic

Buildings on Simpson Place Burn; Klum in Hospital

(By Mrs. Jesse Meyers)

BUXTON—W. B. A. business meeting was held July 15 at the Grange hall. A memorial service was held for deceased members of the past year. A social meeting with a picnic dinner for the members will be held July 24 in a picnic ground on the Fred Leipold farm. All out of town members are invited to attend.

The "Work and Win" club of the Presbyterian church met with Mrs. Edith Riggie July 11. Buildings Burn Fire destroyed the barn and one out-building on the Simpson place on the west side of town early last week. Several dwelling houses caught on fire, but were saved by citizens of the town who came to the rescue.

Miss LaVerne Kilburg and Miss Markee of Timber were week-end visitors of Mrs. Jesse Tillman. Extremely hot weather prevailed here the past week, but was broken by a shower of rain Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fisher returned to their home at Sunset camp last week after spending several weeks here. A dance was given by Albert Herd at Manning Social club hall Saturday night.

Ed Thompson of Bay City is employed at the Elwood mill. Several from here spent Sunday afternoon at Balm Grove swimming pool. Mr. and Mrs. E. Rowton of Leisyville, accompanied by his brother, called at the Jesse Meyers home recently.

Injured in Crash Stanton Cornutt was injured in a car accident last week when a car driven by Mrs. Victor Stowell collided with a car driven by Mrs. D. Cornutt, near Manning. Fifteen stitches were taken to close the cut in his head. The car was badly damaged.

Klum in Vets' Hospital William Klum is reported ill at the Veterans' hospital in Portland. Wins Scholarship Mervyn Selander, who graduated from Tigard high and was highly recommended by Thomas Fowler, principal, won an O. S. C. scholarship and will enroll in the school of engineering at O. S. C. and engineering at major in chemical engineering.

Thomas and Deane Bowne visited from Wednesday until Sunday at Salem with friends and relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Welk and son Arnold of near Oregon City visited Max Welk Sunday.

Miss Ann Lashich left for Portland Wednesday, where she took a seven-hour government examination for assistant statistica clerk. Miss Lashich will leave the latter part of next week for an extended trip through Washington and will return the latter part of August.

Visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Scott recently were Rev. and Mrs. Riley of the Highland Baptist church of Portland, Theodore Gustafson and Mrs. Harry Moore of Portland. Rebekahs Will Picnic Members of Tigardville Rebekah lodge and friends will hold their annual picnic at Elmer's park July 21. Entertainment and games are being planned by the picnic chairman.

Hayward

(By Vivian Hudson)

Willis Ornduff of Timber and niece of California visited their uncle, Harry Floyd, Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Scheigart and daughter Margie of Portland visited Miss Scheigart's sister, Mrs. Dargotz, Sunday. She returned to Portland with them for a short stay.

Mrs. Owens, of Blanche of Portland spent the week-end with her sons, R. A. Clarence and Floyd Updike. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bailey of Green Mountain visited Mr. and Mrs. George Laerman Sunday.

Anniversary Date Bend Folk Observed

(By Mrs. O. H. Peterson)

BEND—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deverell celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary July 3 with a dinner party at their home. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Winlock of Portland, and Herbert Deverell of Portland, brothers and sisters of Mr. Deverell.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Scott of Portland visited Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Wilson Sunday. Celebrates Birthday Mr. and Mrs. Fred Weller and family entertained Saturday evening in honor of Mrs. Weller's birthday. Guests were Mr. Weller's brother, Andrew Weller, and family of Scholls, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. North, parents of Mrs. Weller, June and Wesley North and Melvin Hansen; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Elmer and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Johnson and daughter Lucille.

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Elmonica

(By C. K. Trachsel)

The Ladies' Missionary Guild and Ladies' Aid society of the Bethany Baptist church met together on the lawn of the home of Helen Rich. Jimmy Frost, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Frost of Hillsboro, has been spending the last two weeks with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zurcher.

Last Monday and Tuesday, July 8 and 9, John Trachsel took a trip to Aurora to visit his son Fred Trachsel and family, and then to Salem to visit his grandmother, Mrs. Adeline Rocks. He also visited his son, Carl Trachsel, and family of Montrose, Cal., who are

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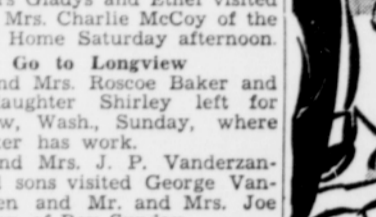
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- 1. All washrooms should be washed and mopped regularly with a germicidal solution. 2. Sanitary seat covers should be provided in all washrooms. 3. A supply of fresh paper towels, toilet tissue and soap should always be available. 4. All plumbing fixtures should be in A-1 working order. 5. Orders by Shell sanitation inspectors are to be carried out to the letter.

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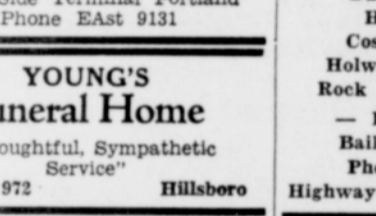


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