

Death Treasure

By R. A. J. WALLING

Chapter 10
THE KEYHOLE MURDER
 "Shot through the keyhole—
 Somerfield's words set up a rush of
 theory, which broke the oppressive
 spell. It loomed all tongues.
 Wayne turned to stare at the
 door, in its archway, and at the
 huge lock, and at the large worn
 aperture in it.
 "Mr. Fotherbury," said Wayne,
 "is that door ever locked?"
 "Always at night."
 "And the key usually kept on the
 outside?"
 "Always."

"Before I examine it, should you
 say that the key ought to be in the
 lock now?"
 "Yes, certainly—if nobody has re-
 moved it."
 "It is not in the lock," Wayne ex-
 claimed. "Every man in the room
 must have known it—the door has
 been swung open several times."
 Wayne walked to the door and
 pulled it open. There was no key.

"You gentlemen will please re-
 main in your seats," said he.
 He went outside and closed the
 door. We could imagine him stoop-
 ing to peep through the keyhole.
 Immediately he was inside again,
 looking down on the body of Pell.

"Mr. Grenofen," he called to me,
 "will you come and show me exact-
 ly what Pell did?"

As I went to him, Wayne fast-
 ened both bolts.
 "Pell was here," said I, taking
 the spot where he stood. "He waited
 with his arm up, looking at his
 watch like this. He said, 'Now!' and
 he started immediately for the door.
 He shot back the top bolt, so,
 and he was stooping to the bottom
 bolt, like this, and before he reached
 it, there was a terrific bang and he
 just fell in a heap—there."

"He was shot in the forehead,"
 said Wayne, looking at him. "Did
 he face the door when he stooped?"
 "I can't say. He was in rapid mo-
 tion all the time. You see, the whole
 thing was done in an instant."

Wayne stood contemplating us,
 his brow puckered, his eyes full of
 doubt.

"Did anybody see the key in the
 door before this happened?"
 "Nobody had noticed whether it
 was there or not."
 "I should make a suggestion,"
 said Somerfield.
 "Well?"

"That if by any chance Pell's
 ghost shot Pell, he probably didn't
 go off with a great key like that in
 the pocket of his shroud. You've
 no doubt observed that the vest-
 ibule is badly lit."

"Ah!" Wayne cried, unbolting
 the door, took a torch from his pocket
 and flickered it along the flags of
 the corridor.

The suspense was too much for
 Seabrook. He muttered something
 about it's being silly, and marched
 across the room to look over Way-
 ne's shoulder.

"Good of you, Somerfield!" he
 called out.

We heard a ring of metal on stone
 and Wayne rose with a large iron
 key in his hand. He examined the
 keyhole by the light of his torch.

"Mr. Fotherbury," said he, "you
 assure me that there has been no
 trick with this key? It's not a
 plant?"

"Of course not, Mr. Wayne. You
 wouldn't ask me that if you weren't
 suffering a little from excitement.
 It looks as if—but perhaps you'd
 rather we didn't speculate?"

"It alters things," said Wayne.
 "Don't you think, Mr. Fother-
 bury, you could at least put us
 parole? I suppose we can all give
 our word of honor to stay within
 call of Mr. Wayne until something
 is decided?"

He sent a look of inquiry round.
 "Very well," said Wayne. "Until
 the chief comes, the body must stay
 there. The door can be locked and
 I'll take the key."

By this time we were all stand-

ing round him except Marling, who
 had sat immobile in his chair by
 the hearth.
 "Come along, Marling," said Mr.
 Fotherbury.
 Marling rose and walked slowly
 towards us, with his cassock swing-
 ing. He was at the tail of the little
 procession that filed past Wayne
 and went along the corridor.
 "That's the place," said Mr. Foth-
 erbury, checking where another short
 vaulted passage went off to the left.
 It was a mere unit cave to the eye.
 "Curious how he got there," Royle
 observed.

"Please pass along without going
 in," came Wayne's voice behind us.
 And so we reached the hall to en-
 counter Eastley and the constable
 one on either side of Laxton, com-
 ing across it. We stopped and spread
 out. Wayne pushed to the front.

Laxton seemed a little groggy,
 but not much hurt. He gave me no
 sign of recognition.
 "Which of you gentlemen is Mr.
 Fotherbury?" he asked.

Mr. Fotherbury stepped forward.
 "Most extraordinary introduction,"
 said Laxton. "I'm afraid I've
 not been able to keep my appoint-
 ment very punctually."

"Appointment?" Mr. Fotherbury
 inquired with his eyebrows up.
 "Yes, I said I'd be with you at
 three o'clock."
 "Good gracious!" cried the host.
 "You can't be Professor Laxton?"
 "Oh, yes, I can," said Laxton.
 "And what on earth—"

"Excuse me, Mr. Fotherbury,"
 Wayne put his hand up. "If this
 gentleman will come with me, I'll
 speak to him first."

For my purpose, which is to tell
 the facts about Roger Pell, I need
 not dally with the public proceed-
 ings of Wayne and his superiors.

Wayne was a capital fellow—the
 best type of the trained police offi-
 cer, and in England that is saying a
 lot. But Wayne naturally con-
 sidered himself only to find an ex-
 planation of the murder and when
 he had found it, since the murderer
 could obviously not be caught in
 Blackwater, he handed the whole
 thing over to Scotland Yard.

And Scotland Yard began its hunt
 for the mysterious person of whom
 we came to speak as "Pell's ghost."

Wayne, puzzled to death and
 bulging with those suspicions of
 his, as soon as the theory of the
 shot through the keyhole was sug-
 gested, conceived the idea that Lax-
 ton might be the ghost!

(To be Continued)

BROOKS

Miss Ellen Hackit, and her brother
 Robert Hackit accompanied by
 Mrs. C. D. Naylor, went to Gervais
 Tuesday afternoon and were guests
 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John
 Naylor.

Miss Majel Low of Brooks and
 her sister Miss Melva of Molalla,
 spent the week end in Portland.

Miss Doris Wood of Noti, was a
 guest the past week of Mr. and
 Mrs. Ralph Sturgis.

Kay Montgomery returned to
 Brooks Monday from eastern Ore-
 gon where he has been employed in
 the grain harvest. Montgomery left
 Tuesday for Tacoma where he will
 visit his parents.

The signal crew is expected here
 soon to install a bell at the railroad
 crossing.

Mrs. Mary Moisan has returned
 to her home in Brooks after an ex-
 tended visit with relatives in Port-
 land.

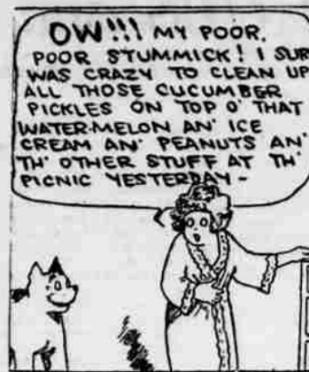
SMITHS ARE BACK
 Silverton—Dr. and Mrs. A. L. V.
 Smith have returned from a two
 weeks' vacation trip. They spent
 their vacation at Netarts, Ocean
 Lake, Culter City and Breitenbush.

A fund of \$100,000 will be used
 to start a colony in Palestine for
 Texas Zionists.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

The Morning After

By Harold Gray



REG'LAR FELLERS

"Ain't Seen Nuthin Yet"

By Gene Byrnes



TAILSPIN TOMMY

Rescuing The Yellow Jacket

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST

RECEIVING NO HELP FROM THE AMERICAN CONSUL'S SECRETARY AND AFTER TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CRASH THE GATE INTO THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE, TOMMY HAS DECIDED TO FLY OVER THE PALACE AND DROP A NOTE WARNING THE PRESIDENT OF THE IMPENDING REBELLION AND BEGGING HIS AID IN FINDING BETTY----



DUMB DORA

Personal Attention

By Chick Young



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManis



MUTT AND JEFF

A Sentry With A Wide Acquaintance

By Bud Fisher



ACROSS Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

1. Hession
 2. Tins
 3. Converter in-
 formity
 10. Around neck
 11. Fetal sign
 12. Nix up
 13. Collog.
 14. Knicker
 15. Anxious wine
 16. receptacle
 17. Menial image
 18. From the sign
 19. msk. shbr.
 20. Measurment
 21. Type measur-
 ment
 22. Medicinal
 plant
 23. Christmas
 card
 24. Proofreader's
 mark
 25. Gouty
 mollusk
 26. Pan
 27. Contend
 28. Tabor of a
 brass
 29. Heavy mineral
 resembling
 marble
 30. North
 31. Dry
 32. At home
 33. Assailant

DOWN

4. Dwelling place
 5. Craves
 6. Astoria
 peninsula
 7. Concentrated
 8. Toward the lee
 9. Side
 10. base of
 horns
 11. Negative
 12. Rostered
 particle
 13. Went up
 14. Black and blue
 15. Short for a
 man's name
 16. Fra
 17. Ignited
 18. Diarrhea
 19. Horseback
 rider's seat
 20. Silkworm
 21. Lay in warmth
 22. Salt
 23. Ventured
 24. Object of
 worship
 25. Roman em-
 peror
 26. A judge of
 Israel's judg.
 27. 1211
 28. Presently
 29. Trial
 30. Consume
 31. Wrath

ACROSS

1. LOVE
 2. CHART
 3. CALM
 4. APEX
 5. AERIE
 6. ALLI
 7. MAGI
 8. DANCE
 9. NAME
 10. PLATTER
 11. ETONIAN
 12. SENT
 13. REBA
 14. GIB
 15. ACE
 16. SRO
 17. ROE
 18. ARIL
 19. ENS
 20. SLEEPS
 21. RASER
 22. SAC
 23. ONSET
 24. STORES
 25. POP
 26. DORE
 27. EEN
 28. SPA
 29. HUG
 30. WAR
 31. WEIR
 32. ERIA
 33. RIVETER
 34. RINGERS
 35. AREAL
 36. LIKES
 37. ARIA
 38. NOIR
 39. EVENTS
 40. TROT

DOWN

41. Proposition
 42. Act
 43. Kind
 44. Cattle
 45. Verbal
 46. Holder of the
 Ark's var.
 47. Green Light
 48. European fish
 49. Of the cod
 family
 50. Finish
 51. Head depression
 52. DOWN
 53. A. P. C. Collog.
 54. Smaller
 55. Kink
 56. Mescaline
 57. Component
 58. parts of the
 Velox
 59. Object of
 worship
 60. Roman em-
 peror
 61. A judge of
 Israel's judg.
 62. 1211
 63. Presently
 64. Trial
 65. Consume
 66. Wrath

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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