Nothing Venture

by Patricia Wentworth

SYNOPSIS: Nan Weare, investigating with Ferdinand Francis the disappearance of Jervis Weare, her husband, again runs against a stone wall. She has learned only that Rosamund Carew and Robert Leonard, both of whom would gain by Jervis' death, each have good alibis. Fear for Jervis' life tortures Nan.

Chapter 40

NAN IS LEFT ALONE

Nan had braced herself against the possible ringing of the telephone till so long she had lost account of time. It might have been half an hour, or three hours that she had been pacing unseeingly from end to end of the great drawing room at Weare—she had even persuaded herself that if the telephone did ring it must be Jervis on the other end.

A prolonged and acute strain such as Nan was undergoing has the effect of etching out thoughts, fixing them as frost does a landscape sometimes, with an unnatural rigidity. The thoughts tended to separate from each other, and might bob up anywhere.

Nan had walked perhaps 50 times from the door to the table, from the table to the window, from the window to the table, and from the table back to the door, when she became aware of such an impression among her frozen thoughts.

At first her awareness of it was vague and inattentive, but gradually her attention bega nto focus itself. It puzzled her, and, her attion once focussed, she felt a slight relief in having something definite to think about.

The impression was that of Mrs. Mellish looki gnat her with eyes like windows with the blinds pulled down. She had asked Mrs. Mellish whether she had seen or heard anything between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Mrs. Mellish had said no.

The very tone of that dry "No, ma'am" beat at Nan's ears. She had asked Mrs. Mellish to find out whether the maids had seen or heard anything; and it was while Mrs. Mellish was out of the room that the impression had been made—a slammed door, eyes with the blinds drawn down—something to hide. Mrs. Mellish came back, and reported that nobody had noticed anything.

Between two and half-past seven Jervis had walked out of the house. No one had seen or heard him go—no one had seen anything—no one had heard anything. Then why had Mrs. Mellish slammed her door and pulled down her blinds? The impression that she had done so was clearer now tha nit had been at the time. The ice had set and defined it sharply.

Nan walked quickly to the hearth, and rang the bell. Then she faced round towards the door and waited until Alfred appeared.

"Will you ask Mrs. Mellish to come and speak to me here, please."

She would see Mrs. Mellish here. In the housekeeper's room, with its photographic enlargements of Mrs. Mellish husband and Mrs. Mellish's respected and respectable parents, with Mrs. Mellish's sweet-grass workbox and Mrs. Mellish's photograph album on a small rosewood table, and a large illuminated text hanging over the mantlepiece Nan had been made to feel an alien and an intruder.

The very china dogs, white poodles with baskets in their mouths, has gazed at her aloofly from either end of the mantelshelf. The old-fashioned wall-clock had a disapproving tick. Here she could meet Mrs. Mellish upon neutral ground. This was Jervis' room.

Afred went away, and presently came back again. Mrs. Mellish had just stepped out.

"I would like to see her when she comes in."

Nan went back to her pacing.

At 6 o'clock the telephone bell rang with a startling loudness and set her heart thumping. She was by the door. She turned, ran back, and picked up the receiver.

"Who's there?"

"Ferdinand."

"Yes?"

"Look here, Nan, there's something I want to follow up. I'm leaving in a hired car. It mayn't be anything at all, but I feel bound to follow it up."

"What is it?"

"It doesn't amount to much. There's a new garage the far side of Croyston. Well, the man says a little black car stopped to fill up at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning. He was about because he was doing a job on his own car. He says there were two men in the car, and from the description one of them might be Jervis; but it's very vague.

"It was the other man who did the talking. He was the driver, and he'd red hair, so it oughtn't to be hard to trace him. He talked about going to New York, so I'm off looking for him. Don't you worry."

"Jervis hasn't a small black car."

"The car was the other man's—he was driving. They may have met by appointment, or Jervis might simply be getting a lift—or it mayn't have been Jervis at all. The garage man only said, 'a gentleman with black hair.' That's about all he noticed—his first name isn't Sherlock."

Ferdinand rang off, and Nan began walking up and down again. She walked for a long while, and then sat down by the window and let time flow past her like a sluggish stream, so slow that though it moved, the movement was imperceptible.

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At 7 the dressing bell rang, and Alfred came in. He hovered for a moment by the door and then came nearer. Mrs. Mellish had missed her bus from Croyston—and would it be convenient for Mrs. Weare to see her after dinner?

Nan said, "Yes—it doesn't matter," and Alfred withdrew.

When the dinner bell rang, she realized that she had not changed. She went upstairs, washed her hands, and came down again, to sit alone at the big table in the dining room and take a spoonful from each dish that was offered to her.

(To Be Continued)

Brotherhood Host For Social Event

Turner — Women were special guests at the meeting of the Methodist Men's Brotherhood held in the church, with a social hour and refreshments following the program. Ivan Hadley, president, presided, with group singing being participated in by the group. F. P. Rowley conducted devotionals in the absence of the chaplain, H. S. Bond who is in Chicago. Special musical numbers were presented, vocal solo and a violin solo by F. C. Gunning and Miss Lillian Peterson; Mrs. F. J. Toose of Salem, sang "None But Jehovah," composed by a Chinese boy, her husband played the piano accompaniment. F. J. Toose delivered the principal address during the evening, his subject being "Citizens' Part in Law Enforcement."

SOCIALIST HAS CROWD

Pioneer—Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Barnett and Kenneth Barnett motored to Portland to hear the address given by Norman Thomas, socialist candidate for president. They found the auditorium where the meeting was held, filled to the doors.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS

by Frederic J. Haskin

The answers to questions printed here each day are speciments picked from the mass of inquiries handle by our great information bureau maintained in Washington, D. C. This valuable service is for the free use of the public. Ask any question of fact you may want to know and you will get an immediate reply. Write plainly, enclose three cents in coin or stamps for return postage, and address the Capital Journal Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D.C.

Q. What is the origin of the name of the city of Hamtramck? M.J.

A. The city of Hamtramck was named for Col. John Francis Hamtramck, who was born in Canada in 1757, and served in the Revolution. He died at Detroit on April 11, 1803.

Q. Why do plants and flowers wilt and sometimes die in the breeze of an electric fan? P.B.

A. This is because the fan causes to violent a circulation of air which absorbs the moisture from the plants and flowers.

Q. What is the name of the runner whose picture appears on the Olympic Games postage stamp? E.G.

A. It is not the picture of a particular person. It was conceived by the artist.

Q. How are Kosher pickles made? M.P.

A. The cucumbers must be washed absolutely clean. The keg or crock must also be perfectly clean. Pack cucumbers in keg or crock very closely, adding an ocasional layor of salt, spice, garlic, and kummel sticks or dill. When the receptacle is almost full add water until it covers pickles. Cover and set aside for two or three days.

Q. Are natural pearls superior to cultured pearls? R.A.

A. Pearls of culture generally possess a finer structure than those of accidental growth, or the naturals, but it is almost impossible to distinguish between the two kinds except by cutting the pearl and examining the cross section.

Q. Please quote Robert Louis Stevenson's prayer which appears on the memorial to him in St. Giles' church, Edinburgh. A.H.R.

A. "Give us grace and strength to persevere. Give us courage, and gaiety, and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends and soften to us our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another."

Q. When did the cave man live? R.K.

A. The cave man lived during the Paleolithic Age. The earliest period of the Stone Age may have extended as far back as 600,000 B.C.; the latter Palleolithic probably to 100,000 B.C., and the Neolithic to about 15,000 B.C.

Q. What caused the pottery and statuary of ancient cities to be buried? G. O. B.

A. The burial of pottery and statuary of ancient cities has resulted from various circumstances. In many cases the city has merely decayed from age and collapsed. Destruction by war has been a frequent cause. Natural events, such as earthquakes and storms, etc., have also played an important part.

Q. Why do scientists entertain the idea of a rocket flight to the moon, instead of an airplane? A.H.

A. An airplane would be useless without air in which to travel. In space the only kind of prounsion considered practical is the kick of an explosion, for the push then is against the gases formed by the explosion instead of the push against the air which is employed in airplanes.

Q. What does the Pullman company do with the cars when they become unfit for use? N.D.

A. When cars become unfit for further service, rather than than run any chance of their being utilized in any way whatsoever for transportation purposes, as a safety measure the cars are destroyed. In other words, when the cars reach the point of retirement, they are dismanteled of all parts that have any salvage value and the remainder of the cars burned or otherwise destroyed.

Q. When were samplers first made? K.J.V.

A. The earliest mention of a sampler so far found is in 1502 when Elizabeth of York paid eight pence for an el lof linen cloth to make one. A sampler is referred to by John Shelton, the poet, about the same time. Originally samplers were intended for practical purposes; needlework and embroidery were practically the only relaxation of women at that time and samplers were made for "handkerchiefs, table cloths, sheets, towels, napkins, and pillow-bearers." The earliest American sampler was that of Loara Standish. The next reported was that of Mary Hollingsworth of Salem, which was probably made about 1665. Sarah Lord made one in 1668.

Q. What caused the lameness of Trubee Davison, Asst. Secretary of War? D.T.

A. Mr. F. Trubee Davison, assistant secretary of war, served as a lieutenant, junior grade, in the U. S. Naval Air Service during the World war. His lameness was caused by a plane crash during the war.

Q. Please give the names of the members of the federal farm board, telling where born and former business. J.P.O.

A. James C. Stone, born in Richmond, Ky., formerly with Insurance Dept. of Kentucky, president and manager of a tobacco company; Charles S. Wilson, born in Hall, N. Y., formerly fruit grower; W. F. Schilling, born in Hutchinson, Minn., formerly publisher and dairyman; Card Williams, born in Porter C., Indiana, formerly editor and farmer; C. B. Denman, born in Bollinger, Mo., formerly leader in livestock industry; Frank Evans, born in Salt Lake City, Utah, formerly attorney for National Farm board; Sam H. Thompson, born in Quincy, Ill., formerly farmer; Arthur M. Hyde, born in Princeton, Mo., formerly attorney. The salaries of the members of the federal farm board were reduced under the recent economy act. They formerly received $12,000 a year. They now receive $10,000.

Q. In the flag used for the Olympic Games, which circle represents each country? A.T.W.

A. The three upper circles, blue, black and red, do not touch, but they are joined by two lower circles of yellow and green which in turn do not touch each other. The blue circle represents Europe, the black Africa, the red American, the yellow Asia and the green Australia.

Q. What is the highest point on the Atlantic coast of the United States south of Maine? C.F.S.

A. It is Todt Hill, Staten Island, and the altitud is 430 feet above sea level.

SUNDOWN STORIES

THE LONG NIGHT

By Mary Graham Bonner

All through the night the Ducks and the Toads and Rip, the dog, sat outside Flotilla Botilla's house.

Sometimes they nibbled some food but none of them was really hungry. Sometimes they took short naps, putting their heads under their wings, but none of them was really sleepy. Rip hardly dozed.

Sometimes you could have heard low quacking whisperings—no louder than the small rustle of the trees—as they asked each other:

"How do you suppose she is now?"

All through the night Willy Nilly and Flotilla Botilla's family sat by her bed, and all night Flotilla Botilla slept.

All through the night the rooster, Top-Notch, waited so when she was really well, he would be the first to crow the good news to the whole of Puddle Muddle.

He took a perch on the corner of the railing on the porch but he hardly slept at all. Just before morning he slept more soundly, and waking up, forgot for a moment where he was and started to give his usual announcement that the sun would soon be up and that he was all ready for business.

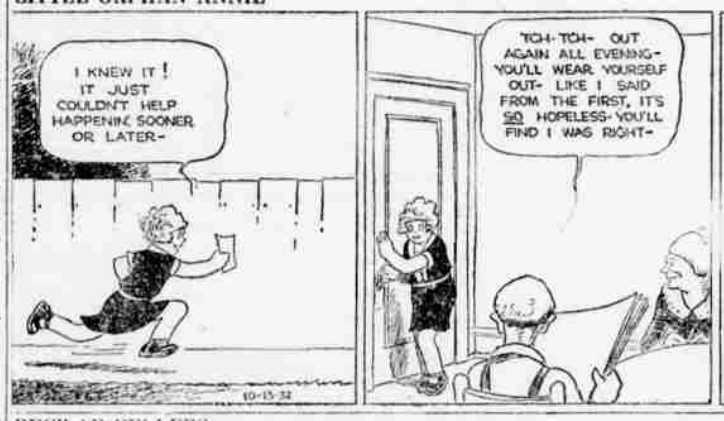
But before he had got out as much as half a crowing sound he realized where he was and the "cock-a-doodle-do" became a thin little dying-away trickle of a sound.

The sun was well up when Willy Nilly at last came downstairs and said to a sleepy, tired lot of creatures:

"She's out of danger now. She's awake and she's going to have a little breakfast. But she must be kept very quiet today."

They could hardly keep from shouting with joy!

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



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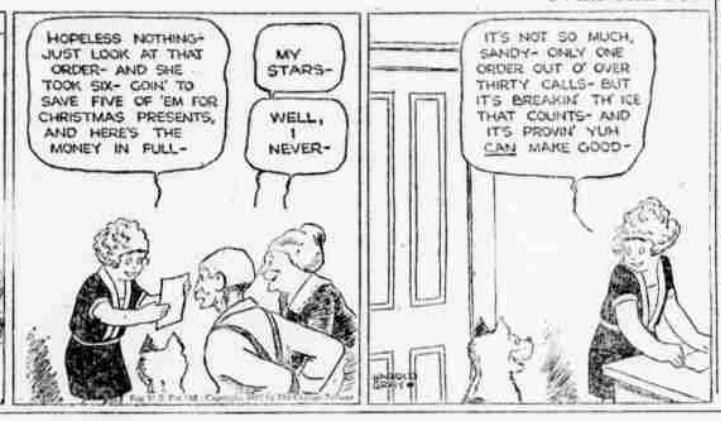


Seven to nothing! Zoo College goes mad.

And is our plump hero (who helped coach it) glad?

"I said at the half we would win sure as fate."

Says Puffy, "and that's what I meant by 'Just weight.'"

REG'LAR FELLERS

HOLESOME FOOD

THE GUMPS

THE YES HAVE IT

MUTT AND JEFF

JEFF TOOK THE DOC'S ORDERS TOO LITERALLY

TAILSPIN TOMMY

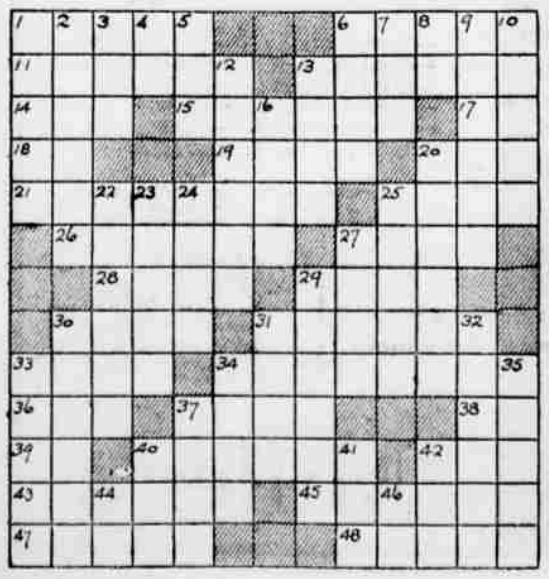
By Glenn Chaffin and Hal Forrest

OFF FOR THE MIAMI AIR RACES!

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Long-tailed parrot with sandy plumage
6. Sharp points
11. Resembling the organ-pavanium of a seed plant
12. Companionable
14. Spread loosely
15. Rumor
17. Son of Nut
18. Forward
19. Deep mud
20. Endeavor
21. Kind of turnip
24. Not that
26. Diners
27. Solicitude
28. Close loop
29. State of profound insensibility
30. River mud
31. Barbarous animals
33. Baptismal vessel
34. Scene of Napoleon's defeat
36. Floor covering
37. Telegram: colloq.
38. Birthplace of Abraham
39. Like
40. Large oil cans
42. Old word meaning a point
43. Humbly
45. Lead astray
47. Having a margin

DOWN

1. Go by automobile
2. Broad thoroughfare
3. That which a ruminant chews
4. Short for a man's name
5. Strife
6. Caliber
7. Part of a play
8. Japanese marine measure
9. Author of "Sentimental Tommy"
10. Kills
12. Casual observation
13. Bail bird
16. Swine
20. Slave
22. Accepting
23. Tipping
24. Crooked
25. Animal handler
27. Inclosure for small animals
29. Provides and serves food
30. Plunged into water
31. Scarce
32. Beginning of a river
33. Fashion
34. Crafty
35. Command
37. Untamed
40. United
41. A son of Noah; var.
42. Not at home
44. Symbol for silver
46. Double: prefix