

MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: Apparently a policeman and a stranger have shot each other dead in the breakfast room of Pierre Dufresne's house. Yet Sergeant Harper does not believe it is so, although the only evidence so far that he is right seems to be the fact that the beautiful Mrs. Dufresne, who the dead With Detective Lafferty, Harper is carefully reconstructing the murdered stranger's actions on the fatal night.

Chapter 21

HELP AT LAST

"The man seemed to be quite familiar with the house," Harper continued, "for he disturbed nothing. He started a fire in that hearth, very likely as soon as he arrived, for it was chilly. The logs were pretty well burned when we arrived on the scene."

"Couldn't some one have noticed the smoke from the chimney when he started it?" Lafferty questioned. "The Whitmores, for instance?"

"We can inquire, but I think the chances were against it. It was a gray, lowering sky, and with the snow coming down so thickly I doubt if it would have been noticed. Our man set out a decanter of whiskey and one of brandy, took a glass from the cabinet yonder, and sat down at the head of the table, as comfortable as you please. He lit a cigarette, threw the match in the fireplace, and relaxed. Doesn't that suggest that he was there to meet some one?"

"He smoked five cigarettes, for there are four stubs in the grate and five matchsticks. The fifth cigarette burned itself to ashes between his dead fingers. As he

smoked, he carelessly flipped the ashes toward the fireplace. Some fell a little short. He is still sitting there when Officer Hamill enters the room and the shooting begins."

Lafferty made a very face. "That brings us right back to the mystery of why they did it. What made them 'go for each other' simultaneously?"

Harper said, "It's all very puzzling. If our unknown man had been trailing Dufresne, he must certainly have realized that Dufresne would guard himself in the Austerlitz last night. What made him come up and dress himself like Dufresne? The mystery of this man's clothing is going to give us plenty to think about. The outfit must be part of his masquerade, his own clothing must be hidden somewhere in this house."

Harper turned out the inner breast pocket of the jacket. An embossed silk label furnished the maker's name—Barr, Tompkins & Barr, one of the exclusive tailoring firms of the city.

"Look here, Jack, this fellow was no customer of that firm. There is too much discrepancy between the quality of his under and outer clothing. Nor did his hands exactly indicate the gentleman of leisure. These nose-glasses were put on, along with the false beard, to make his resemblance to Dufresne more striking. The pinners of the glasses made deep red marks on the sides of his nose."

"Was he so anxious to conceal his identity that he removed a ring worn so long that he had to skin his knuckle to get it off? There are some leading questions for you."

"Well, Barr, Tompkins & Barr should be able to give us some information about the dress suit."

"I think we can get the same information much nearer home," Harper replied, rising and pressing the service bell.

"Steve," Lafferty began, "I've been mulling over what you said about that man having shaved here in the house. That suggests just one thing to me—he was going to meet some one—and that some one was a woman. You can't escape the deduction."

Harper nodded. "Yes, but you can't be so positive about a woman being mixed up in it. Every time you see a man shaving it doesn't mean that he's going to a rendezvous."

"Steve, you're certainly bent on throwing a screen around Mrs. Dufresne. Why are you so sure she had nothing to do with it?"

Harper answered patiently, "That inference will not be overlooked. I hold no brief for the lady, but I have an instinctive feeling that she is entirely innocent. Not, as Doyle suggested, because of her air of fragility or any chivalrous duty to beauty in distress."

"Mrs. Dufresne fainted when she saw the dead man unmasked," Lafferty continued doggedly. "Perhaps that was from shock or the sudden relief from strain—but I think she knew that man! And I'm going to take that as a working basis."

"That's quite all right," Harper answered in good-naturedly. "Mrs. Dufresne's movements last night will be looked into thoroughly. Do not forget that this pow-wow began with the idea that there may have been a third person in this room last night—even," he pronounced slowly, "that these killings did not take place as suggested by the evidence. A dozen watchers beyond the garden wall wouldn't after that, if they didn't enter the house."

Harper broke off short as the door opened and Andrews entered. "Andrews, can you tell us the name of Mr. Dufresne's tailor?"

The butler showed no sign of surprise at the seemingly irrelevant question. "Barr, Tompkins & Barr," Harper picked up the coat, trousers, and waistcoat. "I want you to

examine these carefully, Andrews, and tell us if these are parts of Mr. Dufresne's wardrobe."

Andrews looked closely at the various articles, fingering the seams, examining the linings, turning out the inner pocket for label. "Yes, sir, I am quite sure this is one of Mr. Dufresne's suits."

Harper handed over the nose-glasses, with their black silk cord. "How about these?"

"I think they are his. Mr. Dufresne has all his glasses made up in duplicate pairs."

"Can you identify any others of these clothes?"

Andrews obediently picked over the shoes, socks, underwear, shirt, collar and tie. He put the last three articles aside. "I believe these came from upstairs, sir. I am sure the others did not."

"Has Mr. Dufresne awakened yet, Andrews?"

"Oh, yes, sir. He is having breakfast now."

"Have you been in Mr. Dufresne's room since you came up from the Austerlitz last night?"

"Naturally, sir, several times. Both last night and this morning."

"Did you notice any sign of disturbance, anything to indicate that this man had been in those rooms? Or did Mr. Dufresne mention anything of that nature?"

"No, sir. So far as I could see nothing had been disturbed. I cannot answer for Mr. Dufresne, but doubtless he would have mentioned it to me."

Harper put the clothing back on a chair. "If this man changed into some of Mr. Dufresne's clothes he'd do it right there in the room, Andrews, take Lafferty here up to the dressing-room and help him look through the closets."

Lafferty went out in the wake of the butler, and Harper, left alone, began to walk up and down the room, his eyes turning again and again to that armchair in which the baffling intruder had met his death.

He came to a stop before the waistcoat at the vertical panel that bore the bullet mark. The bullet had not wedged itself into the wood, but had been found on the floor, whence it had dropped after the impact. The detective used his magnifying lens on the scarred panel.

Carlin's puzzled suggestion that the bullet could bore all the markings of a heavy caliber steel-jacket had stuck in his mind. The lens afforded a much clearer view of the jagged dent in the wood, from which tiny particles had fallen to the floor.

This enlarged scope of the eye gave the detective a sudden and startling insight into the matter. He fitted the bullet into the rough-edged cavity. It matched very badly. He tried the bullet from various angles but with no better success.

Harper squatted back on his heels, the light of discovery dawning on him. The center depth of the bullet mark in the waistcoat was undoubtedly deeper than Officer Hamill's bullet could account for. Furthermore, the mark in the wood ran to a distinct conical pit, while the nose of the policeman's bullet was distinctly blunt! Here was the first tangible bit of evidence to give color to his suspicions.

It looked as if the sharp-eyed Carlin's hesitancy over acceptance of the caliber of the fatal bullet as a 28 was going to be justified. If this unidentified masquerader had not died by this particular 38 bullet then Officer Hamill had not killed him. The attendant corollaries of this thought leaped into Harper's grasp, full-armed and clamoring for attention.

It meant that the bullet which had really killed the man in the chair was definitely missing! It had been carried away. Some phantom third presence had deluged it from the wall and substituted a bullet fired from the policeman's gun.

Officer Hamill had not killed the unknown man. Then the dead man in the armchair could not have killed Hamill!

(To be Continued)

POTATO BUGS IN SURF
Sea Isle City, N. J. (UP)—Residents of this village recently were flabbergasted when thousands of potato bugs came rolling in on the breakers, covering the shore for about a mile. It was believed the bugs "floundered" after flying out over the ocean from either the Delaware, or the Maryland coasts.

PUFFY
Puffy runs down the street, turns a corner and stops;
He's standing in front of two tall-oring shops.
He goes in the on run by Lucas J. Towers.

"Please give me," says Puffy, "a new pair of trousers."

MUTT AND JEFF
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HALF AN HOUR LATER, MUCH EXHAUSTED BY HIS EFFORTS, THE RESCUER WAS APPROACHED BY THE BOY'S FATHER—

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ANSWERS TO A QUESTIONS

By Frederic J. Haskin

Q. Is the Dead Sea of any value?

A. Palestine Potash, Ltd., a recently formed company plans to recover several valuable chemicals from the Dead Sea. Pure potash up to approximately 4000 tons was extracted in 1932. Magnesium bromide is being produced at the rate of a ton a day.

Q. When was the University of Geneva, Switzerland, founded?

A. It has been known under its present name only since 1873, but is the outgrowth of one of the oldest and most famous of protestant institutions of learning, the Academy of Geneva, founded by the Genevan Republic in 1559.

Q. Where is Polietesme? G.D.

A. This is a mythical European country created by James Branch Cabell in which scenes in some of his books are laid.

Q. Is the speaking clock of the Paris telephone system successful?

A. The robot clock tells the time to an average of 11,000 inquirers a day thus bringing in a revenue of 4,000,000 francs yearly.

Q. Did Rube Goldberg, cartoonist, go to college? C.M.

A. He is a graduate of the College of Mining Engineering of the University of California.

Q. What does membership in the American Museum of Natural History cost? N.H.

A. There are ten classes of mem-

bership ranging from associate, at an annual cost of \$3, to an endowment member at \$100,000. The institution was founded in 1869.

Q. Where is Hester Phynne buried?

A. She lies in King's Chapel Burying Ground in Boston, Massachusetts.

Q. Were the Mdvan brothers really princes of Russia? A.W.G.

A. The Mdvan brothers, so prominent in American marriages, were Princes of Georgia, one of the small Russian states of the Caucasus region.

Q. Which of Napoleon's brothers and sisters resembled him the most? L.T.

A. It is said that in character Elise resembled the Emperor the most. Physically, the brother Lucien was the most like him.

Q. Is it not true that the original of the Spirit of '76 is in Abbott Hall, Marblehead, Mass.? L.S.D.

A. The painting was presented to the town of Marblehead. It had been on exhibition at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 and had been taken to many other cities by request.

Q. Has a saucer always accompanied a cup? M.E.

A. Not always. The word, saucer, is derived from the old French saussier or saussier. It was originally a receptacle, usually of metal, for holding condiments at a meal, or a dish or deep plate in which salt or sauces were placed on the

table. In this sense it is mentioned in English literature as early as 1385. Later the word was used of a small round shallow vessel to support the cup and to catch any liquid spilled from it. The earliest recorded instance of its use in this sense is 1753.

Q. What does the Japanese intersection, banzai, mean? P.T.

A. Literally, ten thousand years. It is used as hurrah, live forever, as a battle cry, and as a salutation to the emperor.

Q. What do the initials, Z.B.V., stand for in Germany? W.G.

A. For Zur Besonderen Vervendung, meaning on special assignment. These German officials are Hitler's representatives in the various government department charged with the duty of seeing that there is no departure from Nazi precepts.

Q. Do both Jews and Christians accept the trinitarian aspects of God? M.P.

A. The Trinity is one of the great differences in the Christian and Jewish conceptions of Jehovah. To the Jews there is one God. To the Christians, one God with three manifestations: Creator and Legislator; Son, the Redeemer; Spirit, the Sanctifier.

Q. What is the name of the new Christian Science magazine? M.C.

A. The first issue of the Wide Horizon, the new weekly magazine section of the Christian Science Monitor, was first published in January 3, 1934. It is being published thereafter as a part of every regular Wednesday issue of the Monitor, and contains an authoritative survey of world events.

Q. If the Prince of Wales married, what would his wife's title be? E.I.

A. She would be the Princess of Wales.

Make Your Own Shirtwaist Frock

Today's shirtwaist frock is very easy to make and keep conditioned with its raglan sleeves and high neckline. The modish, inverted skirt plaits are large enough to be easily pressed.

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THE FLAMES

By Mary Graham Bonner

Honey Bear was lighting the fire just outside the cave. She was working as quickly as she could, braving the smoke and the heat, and stamping on the ground to try to prevent the fire from getting inside. Oh, her heart was filled with fear.

Her paws were sore from stepping on every stick and stone. The flames that started to creep around the cave, but she kept on for she was the only one to save the cubs. She did not think at all of herself, but she wondered where everyone had gone. It seemed as though help should have come to her by this time.

She could hardly breathe in the smoky air, for the fire had been smoldering for some time. Every few minutes she took a hurried look at the cubs to see that they were all right, but mostly she remained outside the cave stamping on the ground and beating with sticks the places where smoke was coming.

She was only one bear against a fire and there was hardly anything so powerful as a fire. But she would win! She would have bravery enough for anything. Her eyes smarted terribly, but she kept right on.

Yes, she was getting the better of the fire now. Certainly the smoke was not so thick. She breathed a long sigh.

And then, with horror, she noticed fresh flames, and they were creeping along the ground in a space under the rocks. They were going right into the cave!

Tomorrow: "The Fire Fighter"

ACROSS

- Read metrically.
- Worship.
- Not hard.
- Kind of rubber.
- Come to maturity.
- Above.
- Famous English murderer.
- Crawled.
- Narrow road.
- Old musical instrument.
- Epoch.
- Untrue.
- Satirically contemptuous.
- Protective wall or railing.
- Chooses.
- Home from sleep.
- Dropped.
- Female sand-piper.
- Step.
- Wear away.
- Confident beyond doubt.
- Before.
- Pitcher.
- Hole in water-lying place.
- Lives.
- Land property.
- Inscribed by way of compliment.

DOWN

- Box scientific.
- Be concerned.
- Asiatic native.
- One named.
- Kind of electric light.
- Strait.
- Musical drama.
- Went by again.
- With a comb.
- Comfort.
- Ice-enclosed.
- Swamps.
- Large medieval pistol.
- Musical instrument.
- Continued.
- Thin fine silk net.
- Secondhand.
- Summon.
- Drum.
- Grassy field.
- Poetic.
- With a bearing.
- Plush with tufts.
- Undermines.

POSSIBLE WORDS

1. CAR ALL MAINE

2. LEE LIE MORRIS

3. ERG ADVANTAGE

4. WIRES EVES

5. SEEN FRET YEA

6. TAPES AREAN

7. RATTAN TREARY

8. AMER LAYER

9. PAD AMID FLAP

10. ADEN ASIDE

11. INTRINSIC NIS

12. MERES ERE GET

13. POISE YES SUS

14. DOWN

15. BOX scientific

16. BE concerned

17. ASIATIC native

18. ONE named

19. KIND of electric light

20. STRAIT

21. MUSICAL drama

22. WENT by again

23. WITH a comb

24. COMFORT

25. ICE-enclosed

26. SWAMPS

27. LARGE medieval pistol

28. MUSICAL instrument

29. CONTINUED

30. THIN fine silk net

31. SECONDHAND

32. SUMMON

33. DRUM

34. GRASSY field

35. POETIC

36. WITH a bearing

37. PLUSH with tufts

38. UNDERMINES

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

LEAPIN' LIZARDS!
I KNEW Z'AMINATION
WAS COMIN', BUT I
NEVER FIGGERED ON
BEIN' ASKED THOSE
QUESTIONS—

6-13-34



6-13-34

REG'AR FELLERS

EARLY TO BED,
EARLY TO RISE,
MAKES A MAN
HEALTHY, WEALTHY
AN' WISE!

6-13



6-13

THE GUMPS

WELL, TILDA—I'LL BE
THINKING OF YOU
SWEETLY DOWN HERE
IN THE CITY WHILE IM
UP IN THE NICE COOL
PINE WOODS OF SHADY
REST—

6-13



6-13

TAT SPIN TOMMY

THREE-POINT
FIELD GOAL
SUDDENLY
PLUNGED INTO
CARING FOR
NEARBY TOMMY
SKEETER DECIDE
TO INVESTIGATE
THEY FIND
OLD TIM THE
WATCHMAN,
UNCONSCIOUS
AND HEARD
THE SOUND OF
SOMEONE BREWING
THE LARDERS OF
HAWAII THIRTEEN
THEY RUSH IN
JUST IN TIME
TO SEE A DARK
FOXY SLIDING
OUT OF A
REAR WINDOW—

6-13



6-13

MUTT AND JEFF

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6-13



6-13

CLLOUDY, WITH SHOWERS

I'VE GOT TO PASS,
FOR HIS SAKE—
POOR "DADDY" IN
PRISON, JUST 'CAUSE
OF A GANG OF CHEAP
POLITICIANS—
CAN'T HELP CRYIN'
WHENEVER I THINK
OF IT—

6-13-34



6-13-34

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH

RIGHT AFTER THE
ALARM CLOCK
GOES OFF IN
THE MORNIN'!

6-13-34



6-13-34

A WORD TO THE WISE

WELL—WHEN YOU GO UP
THIS TIME—TAKE A TIP FROM
ME—AND WHEN YOU SWIM
ACROSS THE LAKE, INSTEAD
OF THREE TIMES—MAKE
IT FOUR—THEN YOU'LL BE
BACK AT THE SAME SIDE
WHERE YOU LEFT YOUR
CLOTHES—

6-13-34



6-13-34

WAS TOMMY'S FACE RED?

BUT—WHAT
IS BRIDE
DOING NEAR
MAYNARD'S
THIRTEEN
AT THIS
TIME OF
THE
READER
PARK THIS
EVIDENCE
IT HAS AN
IMPORTANT
READING ON
THE STORY

6-13-34



6-13-34

JEFF DOESN'T GET THE JOKE BUT HE GETS SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD!

6-13-34



6-13-34