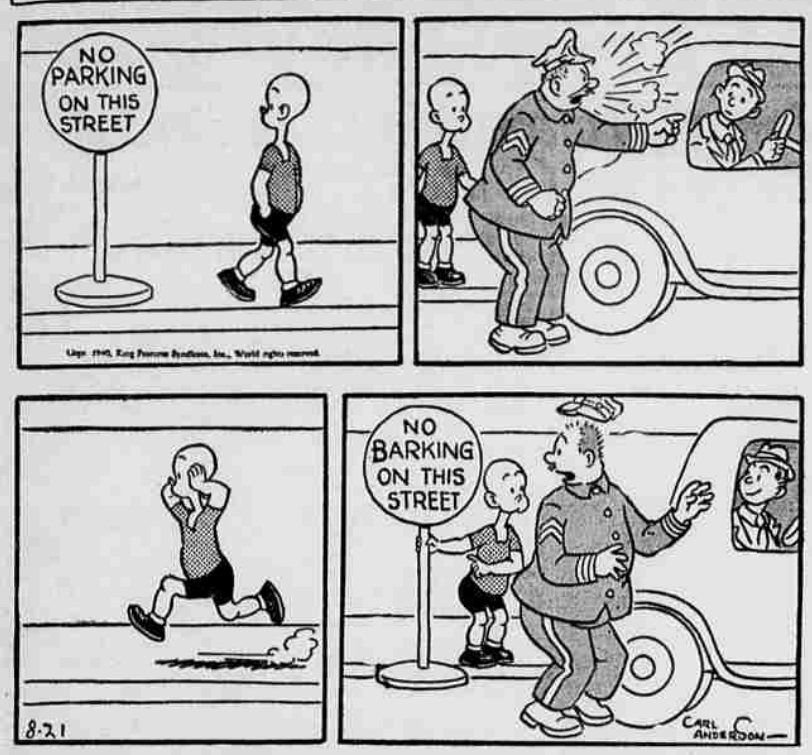
Henry . . . . . By Carl Anderson



Casual Slaughters

By VIRGINIA HANSON

Yesterday: Kay, Julia and Gerald go back for another swim. While they are in the water they see someone on the barge. Later Ivan is found there, dead.

Chapter 17

Early Wedding

"In case he got turned around and started walking the wrong way," Adam remarked.

But except for the purring of the motor and the chirring of cicadas in the thick undergrowth beside the road, there was no sound.

"Perhaps we'd better go back to the barge," Gerald suggested.

"Maybe he had a date there," I said, fired with the idea. "That would explain why he kept quiet and stayed away from us." And than I remembered about Mimi's car and could have bitten my tongue out.

"By Jove—the person who came to the barge!" agreed Gerald enthusiastically, and told Adam about it.

"But whoever it was, he didn't stay long," I added, stressing the pronoun. Julia was not saying anything.

"Maybe they went away together," Adam suggested.

"I don't think so," said Gerald. Neither did I, but we could give no reason except the obvious one that there were no voices.

And so we went back, after all, to the barge, Adam lighting our way with his flashlight and, single file, climbed the crude ladder and walked the narrow deck. And in the black, deep hold the light of the flash found, not the mirrored moon, but the supine form of the one who had been Ivan, with a scum of black water across his face.

According to the fiction I read, the French have an infallible method of solving a crime. They follow the essential clue. It sounds very simple. The only part I can't understand is how they can distinguish, in the confusion of clues that attend murder, the essential from the nonessential. Once that important distinction is made it seems to me that the puzzle is as good as solved.

For instance, it is easy to look back now and see that Sandra and Ivan between them practically signed his death warrant that night. But how could anyone not gifted with second sight have deduced that from the events which took place? Even Sandra, at that time, must have had no suspicion that she was playing with dynamite. It is less easy to see why she was not warned by Ivan's death. But there was her obsession and her essential stupidity.

Stupidity may be too strong a word. She was clever about getting what she wanted, about winning people. As she seemed to have won Colonel Pennant and Mimi; as she must have won Jeff's mother and father. Julia had told me with some bitterness, only a few days before, that Colonel Tack had made Sandra beneficiary of his ten-thousand-dollar life insurance policy.

"That's about all most army officers leave," she explained. "He owned besides a house in Memphis, heavily mortgaged, and the farm in the Ozarks. He left those to Jeff, who can't find anyone who wants to buy either one. And Sandra didn't need the money—she had ten thousand from her own father that she got control of when she was eighteen. Oh, I know she couldn't live in luxury on the income fo ten thousand, but it would have kept her until she got a job or a husband."

"Good husbands come high," I told her. "Twenty gets you better than ten."

I was sorry the instant I said it, but I needn't have been, for she seemed a little comforted.

"I'd rather think he's marrying her for her money," she confessed "than because he's in love with her. Only—I know it isn't the money. Jeff isn't that sort."

I remembered that conversation later, when the question of inheritance assumed grave importance.

Is it easy to look back now and see that Sandra between them practically signed his death warrant that night. It is less easy to see why Sandra was not warned by Ivan's death. Which bring up Sandra and her stupidity, that was not so much stupidity as a mixture of credulity and conceit. I believe her successes had convinced her that she was infallible. On top of that she was without discrimination, as her weakness for Ivan shows, and she believed in miracles.

This last is the most important single fact to remember—the essential clue not only to her character but to the terrifying events which followed the death of Ivan.

Sandra's belief in miracles.

She came to my rooms the next morning before I was awake. Julia had not stayed with me after all. Ivan had not needed her room. . .

I put on a housecoat and opened the door to Sandra, trying not to show my surprise; trying, too, to keep my head from floating loose from my shoulders; it seemed insecurely moored.

A surreptitious glance at my watch told me it was not as early as I thought. I had overslept breakfast. I searched for and found cigarettes which she refused, lit one myself that did not taste good, and tried to get her to sit down. But she would only stand leaning back against the door, looking at me and twisting her hands in a gesture borrowed from the stage but expressive for once, I thought, of genuine emotion.

Her eyes, swollen with weeping recalled to me that incredible moment on the barge when I had seen her clinging to Ivan. Could she have loved that mountebank? Apparently she had. Then why, in the name of all the saints, had she promised to marry Jeff?

Perhaps if I had been more fully awake, or if my head had not felt so light and explosive, I might have pressed her for some of the answers; might have caught her off guard staggered by this calamity which must, for a time at least, have shaken her belief in her patron saint or her rabbit's foot or whatever she did believe in. Perhaps I missed my chance to avert more tragedy. But I do not seriously think so. She would never have confided in me. She was too stupid to be frightened of what she was planning to do; and she must have thought, after Ivan's death, that fate owed her a break.

She said, suddenly, "I had to get out of that house. They—they made fun of him. They're glad. They thought he wasn't good enough—"

Her voice was getting shrill She choked, said more quietly, "I want to talk to Jeff without their knowing. She's in love with him you know. But it's me he wants to marry".

There was enough satisfied malice in that to alienate the sympathy I was beginning to feel for her.

Shock of Dismay

"But if you're not in love with Jeff yourself," I began rather brusquely. She opened her small dark eyes and stared at me as if I were mad.

"Not in love with Jeff?" she repeated incredulously. "Why, how can you say such a thing? It's just because I'm so fond of him—that's why I've decided—why I slipped away this morning. Look—do you mind if I talk to him here? You can send an orderly for him."

"But he'll be at duty—oh, this is Sunday, isn't it? My head's not on tight."

I looked her over, saw that she was once more miraculously composed, and suggested that she find the orderly herself.

"I'll dress and get out as soon as possible," I promised her. "I'm going to the P.Ex. for breakfast."

"Don't leave on my account. There is nothing private about what I have to say to Jeff—I just don't want to be interfered with. I want to handle my own affairs."

To Be Continued

RADIO PROGRAM

KSLM—1360 Kilocycles
Thursday
9:00—Frank Luther.
9:15—It's at the Kerx.
9:30—Johnson Family.
9:45—Keep Fit to Music.
10:00—News.
10:15—Ma Perkins.
10:30—Hits of Seasons Past.
10:45—Bachelor's Children.
11:00—Friendly Neighbors.
11:15—Women World Wide.
11:30—Melody Lane.
11:45—Ace Brigode's Orch.
P. M.
12:00—Value Parade.
12:15—News.
12:30—Hillbilly Serenade.
12:35—Willamette Valley Opinions.
12:50—Melody Bouquet.
1:00—Lang Thompson's Orch.
1:15—Interesting Facts.
1:30—Tommy Reynolds' Orch.
2:00—U. S. Army.
2:30—Conservation Reporters.
2:45—Grandma Travels.
3:00—Maddox Family.
3:30—Your Neighbor.
3:45—Carol Leighton.
4:00—News.
4:15—Bob Stanley's Orch.
4:45—Old Fashioned Melodies.
5:15—Arthur Mann.
5:30—Shafer Parker.
5:45—Blue Bestie.
6:00—Raymond Gram Swing.
6:15—Local News.
6:30—John B. Hughes.
6:45—G-Men Stories.
7:00—Facing the Past.
7:30—Talk of the Town.
8:00—News.
8:30—Plantationaires.
8:45—Twilight Trails.
9:00—Newspaper of the Air.
9:15—Arthur Warren's Orch.
9:30—Fulton Lewis, Jr.
9:45—Joe Rudy's Orch.
10:00—Gus Arnheim's Orch.
10:30—Marvin Dale's Orch.
11:00—News.
11:15—Ray Pearl's Orch.
11:30—Rhythm Rascals.
11:45—Midnight Melodies.

KSLM—1360 Kilocycles
Friday A. M.
6:30—Milkman's Melodies.
7:30—News.
7:45—Melody Lane—Requests.
8:00—Breakfast Club.
8:30—News.
8:40—Bess Bye.
8:45—Pastor's Call.

KOIN—940 Kilocycles
Thursday
9:00—The Goldbergs, CBS.
9:15—Life Can Be Beautiful, CBS.
9:30—Right to Happiness, CBS.
9:45—Mary Lee Taylor, CBS.
10:00—Big Sister, CBS.
10:15—Aunt Jenny, CBS.
10:30—Fletcher Wiley, CBS.
10:45—My Son and I, CBS.
11:00—Society Girl, CBS.
11:15—Martha Webster, CBS.
11:30—Invitation to the Waltz.
11:45—News.
P.M.
12:00—Pretty Kitty Kelly, CBS
12:15—Myrt and Marge, CBS.
12:30—Hilltop House.
12:45—Stepmother, CBS.
1:00—By Kathleen Norris, CBS.
1:15—Beyond These Valleys, CBS.
1:30—Singin' Sam.
1:45—Scattergood Baines, CBS.
2:00—Young Dr. Malone, CBS.
2:15—Outdoors with Bob Edge, CBS
2:30—Joyce Jordan, CBS.
2:45—The World Today, CBS.
3:00—Hello Again.
3:15—Chicagoans, CBS.
3:30—Newspaper of the Air.
4:15—Speed, Incorporated.
4:30—Novelette.
4:45—News.
4:55—Elmer Davis, News, CBS.
5:00—Major Bowes, CBS.
6:00—Glen Miller Orch., CBS.
6:15—Public Affairs, CBS.
6:30—News of the War, CBS.
6:45—Sports Huddle, CBS.
6:55—News, CBS.
7:00—Amos 'n' Andy, CBS.
7:15—Lanny Ross, CBS.
7:30—Ask-it Basket, CBS.
8:00—Strange As it Seems, CBS.
8:25—Harry James Orch., CBS.
8:30—Answer Auction, CBS.
9:00—Paul Sullivan Reviews News, CBS.
9:15—Heathman Melodies.
9:30—Slumber Boat.
10:00—Five Star Final.
10:15—Bob Crosby Orch., CBS.
10:30—Henry King Orch., CBS.
11:00—Henry Busse Orch., CBS.
11:30—Manny Strand Orch., CBS.
11:55—News, CBS.

KOIN—940 Kilocycles
Friday A. M.
6:00—Market Reports.
6:05—KOIN Klock.
7:15—Headliners.
7:30—Bob Garred Reporting, CBS
7:45—Consumer News.
8:00—Kate Smith Speaks, CBS.
8:15—When a Girl Marries, CBS.
8:30—Romance of Helen Trent, CBS.
8:45—Our Gal Sunday, CBS.

KGW—620 Kilocycles
Thursday
9:00—Texas Jim Robertson, NBC.
9:15—Taft Orch., NBC.
9:30—By Kathleen Norris, NBC.
9:45—Dr. Kate, NBC.
10:00—Light of the World, NBC.
10:15—Arnold Grimm's Daughter, NBC.
10:30—Valiant Lady, NBC
10:45—Hymns of All Churches, NBC.
11:00—Stars of Mary Martin, NBC.
11:15—Ma Perkins, NBC.
11:30—Pepper Young's Family, NBC.
11:45—Vic and Sade, NBC.
P. M.
12:00—Portia Blake Faces Life.
12:15—Stella Dallas, NBC.
12:30—Lorenzo Jones, NBC.
12:45—Sons of the Strings, NBC.
1:00—Girl Alone, NBC.
1:15—Stars of Today.
1:30—Midstream, NBC.
1:45—The O'Neills, NBC.
2:00—Musical Ramblings, CBS.
2:15—Major, Minor and Marian, NBC.
2:25—Associated Press News, NBC.
2:30—Against the Storm.
2:45—The Guiding Light.
3:00—Three Romeos, NBC.
3:15—Oregonian News.
3:30—Ho Hum!
3:45—H. V. Kaltenborn, NBC
4:00—Concert Orchestra, NBC.
4:30—Star of Today.
4:45—Cocktail Hour.
5:00—Music Hall, NBC.
6:00—Caravan, NBC
6:30—Grant Park Concert, NBC.
7:00—Fred Waring Pleasure Time, NBC
7:15—Melody Lane.
7:30—Chez Paree Orch., NBC.
8:00—The Aldrich Family, NBC.
8:30—Symphony Hour, NBC.
9:30—Dress Rehearsal, NBC.
10:00—News Flashes, NBC.
10:15—Faithful Stradivari.
10:30—Florentine Gardens Orch., NBC.
7:15—Sir Francis Drake Orch., NBC.
11:00—Oregonian News
11:15—Bal Taberin Orch., NBC.
11:30—St. Francis Orch., NBC.

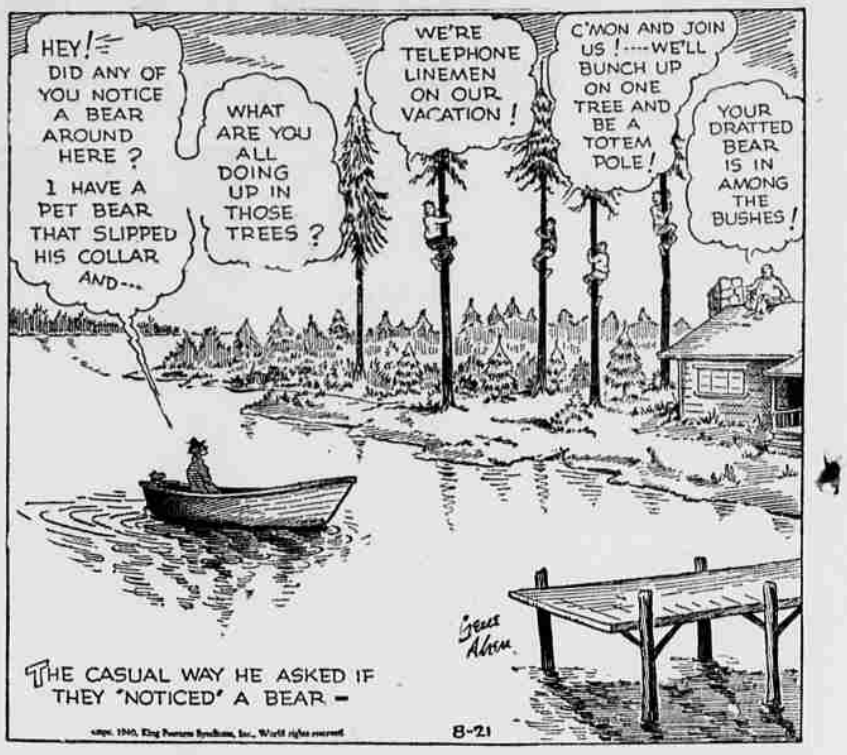
KGW—620 Kilocycles
Friday A. M.
6:30—Sunrise Serenade.
7:00—Oregonian News.
7:15—Home Folks Frolic.
7:30—Wife Saver, NBC.
7:45—Sam Hayes, NBC.
8:00—Woman in White, NBC.
8:15—The O'Neills, NBC.
8:30—Stars of Today.

KEX—1180 Kilocycles
Thursday
9:15—Between the Bookends, NBC.
9:30—Oregonian Home Institute.
9:45—Masters of Melody.
10:00—Oregonian News.
10:15—Our Half Hour, NBC.
10:30—U. S. Marine Band, NBC.
11:00—Orphans of Divorce, NBC.
11:15—Amanda of Honeymoon Hill, NBC.
11:30—John's Other Wife, NBC.
11:45—Just Plain Bill, NBC.
P. M.
12:00—U. S. Dept. Agriculture, NBC.
12:15—Faithful Stradivari.
12:30—Oregonian News.
12:45—Market Reports.
12:50—Musical Workshop.
1:00—The Quiet Hour.
1:30—Frank Watanabe and Arnie, NBC
1:45—Joseph Gallichio Orch., NBC.
2:00—Curbstone Quiz
2:15—Musical Interlude.
2:25—Associated Press News, NBC.
2:30—The Guest Book, NBC.
2:45—Paul Douglas Sports Column, NBC
3:00—It Looks from Here, NBC.
3:15—European News, NBC.
3:30—Morin Sisters, NBC.
3:45—Originalities.
4:00—Bud Barton, NBC.
4:15—Portland on Review.
4:30—Pot of Gold, NBC.
5:00—Singing and Swinging, NBC.
5:30—Little Concert.
5:55—Fishing Time
6:00—European News, NBC.
6:15—NBC.
6:30—Easy Aces, NBC.
6:45—Mr. Keen, Tracer, NBC.
7:00—The American Challenge.
7:30—Canadian Holiday, NBC.
8:00—Oregonian News.
8:15—Aloha Land.
8:25—Diamond Dust.
8:30—Baseball.
10:15—Jantzen Orch., to NBC.
10:30—Biltmore Orch.
11:00—This Moving World, NBC
11:15—Man With a Pipe, NBC.
11:45—Band Music.
12:00—Midnight War News Roundup.

KEX—1180 Kilocycles
Friday A. M.
6:30—Musical Clock.
7:15—Financial Service, NBC.
7:30—Dr. Brock.
8:00—Breakfast Club, NBC.
8:30—National Farm and Home, NBC.

KOAC—550 Kilocycles
Thursday
9:00—Today's Programs
9:03—Homemakers' Hour.
10:00—Weather Forecast.
10:01—Music.
10:15—The Monitor Views the News.
10:20—Music.
10:45—Facts and Affairs.
11:00—Music of the Masters.
P. M.
12:00—United Press News.
12:15—Farm Hour. 12:30—Market Reports.
6:00—Dinner Concert.
6:15—United Press News.
6:20—Farm Hour. 6:45—Weather, Market Reports and Reviews.
7:30—Music of the Masters.
9:30—For Scandinavians.
9:45—Music.
9:00—Oregon on Parade.

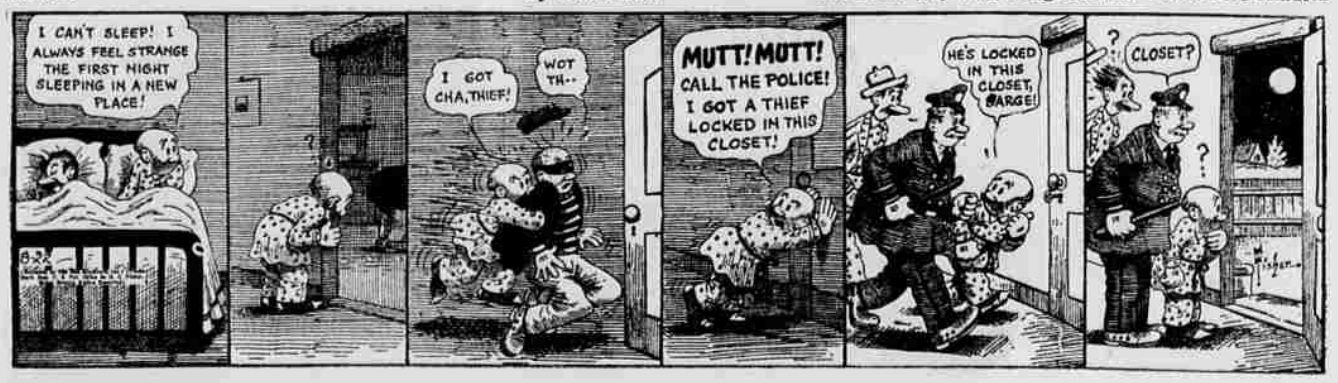
Room and Board . . . . . By Gene Ahern



Little Orphan Annie — By Harold Gray — Old Folks at Home

Reg'lar Fellers — By Gene Byrnes — Kitchy-Kitchy

The Gumps — By Gus Edson — Key to the Situation

Tailspin Tommy — By Hal Forrest — Tommy Treads on Dangerous Ground!

Mutt and Jeff — By Bud Fisher — The Little Guy Was a Big Hero for About Five Minutes