Murder in New Orleans

By BRETT HALLIDAY

(Author of the Michael Shayne Stories)

Installment Three

Shayne arrived in Cheepwee, a sleepy little village of about two thousand population, at 12:30. He drove slowly along Main Street to a two-story clapboard structure known as the Travelers' Hotel.

He parked, got his suitcase out, and went into the dark, empty lobby. A handbell on the desk had a card propped against it inviting guests to "Ring for Management." He rang the bell.

A door behind the desk opened and a fat man waddled through.

"Afternoon, stranger. I was back gettin' a bite to eat."

Shayne signed the register and wrote "New Orleans" after his name.

"Have you a room with bath?"

"Not exactly. I can give you two-sixteen with the bathroom right across the hall and only one other party on that floor right now."

Shayne nodded.

The fat man wrote 216 opposite Shayne's signature.

He plucked an iron key from a hook on his right and handed it to Shayne.

"Right up those stairs," the fat man said. "Go down the hall to your right. You can't miss it."

In the room, Shayne dropped his suitcase on the bed, took a look around, then went out and locked the door.

He went directly to the First National bank. A thin, tired-looking old man was behind the first teller's window.

"Something I can do for you?" the old man asked in a shaky voice.

Shayne handed him a card that read, "Michael Shayne — Private Investigator."

"Investigator?" The old man's voice quaked. "I'm Mr. Holcomb. Won't you come in?"

Shayne went in and sat down in the chair Holcomb drew forward.

"I've been retained by Mr. Carson," Shayne said.

"I see. Unfortunately Mr. Carson is out of town today."

"I know. I just drove up from New Orleans. I believe he expected to return on the afternoon train."

"That's quite correct."

"He wanted me to get right to work on this matter. I'd like to have a look at his office and a chance to go over his files at once."

Mr. Holcomb was hesitant. "I'm sure—I don't know what to say. Do you have an authorization from Mr. Carson?"

Shayne took Carson's check from his pocket.

"Perhaps this will do. It's the check he gave me as a retainer. May as well cash it now" he added carelessly.

"I suppose—yes, I presume this is sufficient," he said hesitantly. He went to the window and counted out two hundred dollars, handed it to Shayne.

"Come with me," he directed.

Shayne followed him to the closed door of an office that said "Private."

Holcomb opened the door and they went in. A blond man of about thirty-five stood in front of an open filing cabinet. He turned quickly and his eyes were startled.

"Harvey, this is Mr. Shayne from New Orleans," said Mr. Holcomb. "Perhaps you will be able to help him out. This is Harvey Barstow, Mr. Carson's assistant."

Barstow's boyish manner gave an impression of youth which a closer examination dispelled. He recovered his composure and came forward.

"Mr. Shayne has been sent here by Mr. Carson to investigate a certain matter," said Mr. Holcomb.

"You must know about the letter he wrote me a few days ago," Shayne told Barstow. "Asking for an appointment."

"Oh yes—of course. You're the detective?"

Behind him he heard Holcomb go out and close the door.

"I presume you know why I'm here," Shayne said to Barstow.

"I'm afraid I don't." Barstow smiled apologetically. "W. D. didn't confide in me. That is, I suppose it has something to do with our business although I hadn't heard of any irregularities."

Shayne grunted and said, "How many people knew he intended to call me in on this affair?"

"I imagine I'm the only one."

"How about his secretary who typed the letter? I think the initials were H. B."

"Yes. Harvey Barstow."

Shayne said "I'd like to be alone and undisturbed while I go through the files. His instructions were to keep things private."

Two hours later Shayne dropped disgustedly into the chair behind the president's desk and smoked a cigarette. There was absolutely nothing of a personal nature in any of the drawers or files.

When his cigarette was finished, he went out and found Barstow.

"I'm finished here for the time being," he said. "Carson's train is not in yet?"

"It's due in about twenty minutes," Barstow told him.

* * *

Back in his hotel room, Shayne got out a bottle of cognac. He arranged both pillows against the headboard of the bed and stretched out with the bottle in his hand.

He had been mulling over the case for thirty minutes when he heard a knock on his door.

When he opened it the fat hotel manager stood panting outside.

"Telephone call for you."

Shayne followed him down the stairs. The receiver hung down from the old-fashioned wall telephone. He put it to his ear.

"Shayne talking," he said.

"Mr. Shayne?" It was a woman's voice, low and secretive as though she tried to keep someone from hearing her. "The detective?"

"That's right."

"This is Mrs. Harvey Barstow. I've got to see you right away. Could you drive out the road a ways?"

"Which road?"

"Straight east past the courthouse square. There's a crossroad a mile out. Turn to the right a little distance and stop."

She was scared, Shayne decided. He said, "In five minutes?"

"Yes. I'll be right along." She hung up.

When Shayne reached the appointed spot he cut off his motor. Soon he heard a car approaching. When it came into view he saw a black coupe with a woman behind the wheel.

She parked a dozen yards away, got out and ran swiftly to Shayne's car.

"I just had to see you," she panted. "After Harvey told me about you, I phoned as soon as I could. I told Harvey I had to get some groceries. I don't want him to know." She got in beside Shayne and closed the door.

Shayne looked at her frightened blue eyes. Her cheeks were deeply sun-tanned, and her flaxen hair hung damply to her high forehead. She was calmer now, and she turned sidewise in the seat to look earnestly into Shayne's eyes.

"Tell me—what are you after Mr. Shayne? I'm afraid!"

"It's a private matter."

"That's what I knew." Her voice rose. "Harvey believes it's about the ban's business, but I know better. Is it about Mr. Carson's wife?"

"I don't think Mr. Carson would want me to discuss it with anyone."

"You can't tell me anything I don't already know," she said earnestly. "You can see why I'm frightened for Harvey. It isn't his fault. She went after him from the very beginning. He tried to be nice to her because she was Mr. Carson's wife.

"I don't know why she picked on Harvey. He never encouraged her. I know that. She deceived her husband ever since they've been married. It's common knowledge, but Harvey doesn't think Mr. Carson knows—yet. But I knew what had happened as soon as he told me about your being here."

Shayne lighted a cigarette and puffed on it and didn't interrupt her. Mrs. Barstow put a work-roughened hand on his arm.

"You've got to tell me what Mr. Carson's going to do. Is he going to divorce Belle when you get the evidence? Harvey will go off with her if he does."

Shayne sighed heavily. "I met your husband this afternoon, and he hardly seems the type to desert his wife and children," he said.

"He isn't, Mr. Shayne. He's a good man. He never looked at a woman in the ten years we've been married until she came along."

"How long has this affair been going on?"

"Over a year now."

"Why are you telling me this if you think I'm here to gather evidence against Mrs. Carson and your husband?"

"You could find it out from anyone in Cheepwee," she told him. "She gloats about her influence over men."

"What do you want me to do?"

"I thought you might talk to Harvey. It just seems that I've got to do something. I did try a few months ago." She paused. "Do you know the other private detectives in New Orleans?"

"Some of them."

"Do you know Mr. Jones?"

Shayne frowned and shook his head. "There are so many of them."

"I suppose so. I just wondered. I went to see Mr. Jones about five months ago in his office in the Downtown Building. I got his name from the telephone book. It said he specialized in divorce evidence and domestic difficulties."

Shayne said, "Jones—in the Downtown Building?"

"His initials are S. G. He had a dinky office and not even a stenographer that I could see, but he seemed smart enough."

"Why did you go to a private detective?"

"To try to get something on Belle," Mrs. Barstow said viciously. "Something I could hold over her to make her leave Harvey alone. Anybody can see she's nothing but a hussy. I told Mr. Jones that. I told him to go to Atlanta and check up on her. That's where she came from."

"And he took your case?"

"After I paid him two hundred and fifty dollars for what he called a retainer and expense money. Then I got a letter from him in Atlanta about two weeks later saying he was on the trail of something good and needed a hundred and fifty more for expenses. So I sent it to him."

"But nothing came of it?" Shayne asked her.

"I never heard any more from Mr. Jones. I waited almost a month and then wrote him a letter and mailed it to New Orleans. It came back with Address Unknown stamped on the envelope."

"The whole thing stinks," Shayne said shortly. "Seems to me I've heard gossip about a person called Skip Jones—because he has a habit of collecting a retainer and skipping out with it."

"I don't understand it," she said. "Unless S. G. Jones is the man known as Skip. That would explain everything."

"He didn't give you any indication in his letter as to the nature of his information about Belle Carson?"

"No. He just said it was what I wanted."

Shayne lighted another cigarette.

"When I go back to New Orleans, I'll try to locate your Mr. Jones," he said. By the way, is this Carson's first marriage?"

"I guess so. He was considered an old bachelor when he came here four of five years ago. There was Miss Aggie Boaks who set her cap for him when he first arrived. Then Belle came along."

Shayne tossed his cigarette out the window. After a moment he spoke musingly.

"Someone always gets hurt in situations like this. How often does your husband see Mrs. Carson?"

"As often as he can. If it's divorce evidence you're looking for, find out where they were last night. Harvey didn't get home until after three."

Shayne turned to look at Mrs. Barstow, his gray eyes soft with pity.

He said, "I'll do what I can, Mrs. Barstow. You realize that when a man your husband's age becomes infatuated with a woman there's little anyone can do."

"I know." She opened the car door. "I'd better be getting back." She got out and walked around the front of his car.

Shayne asked, "Where do the Carsons live?"

"In the big house on the knoll two blocks north of the courthouse. I guess Mr. Carson is there by now."

She returned to her car and started the motor. Shayne got out of his car and pretended to examine his tires. When she drove past him headed toward town, he looked at her license plate and wrote the number in his notebook. Then he got back in the car and turned around. He was suddenly very anxious to have a talk with the mysterious Belle Carson.

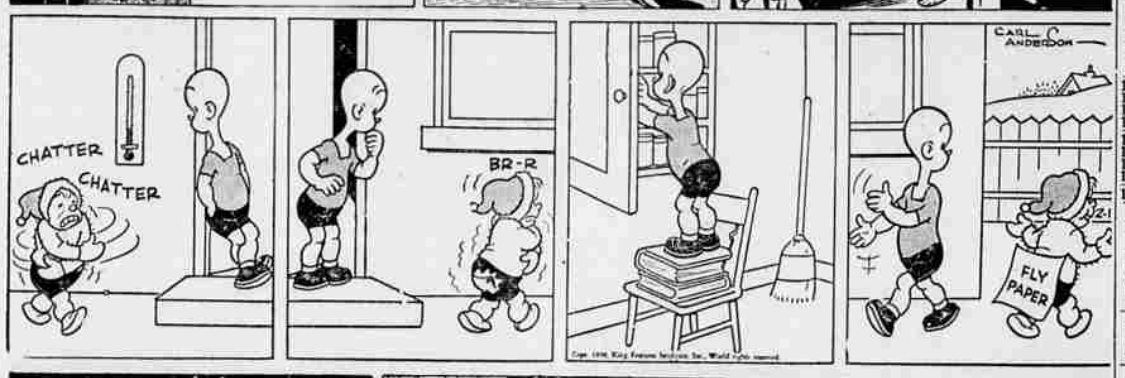
(What new information will Shayne turn up when he meets the amazing Belle Carson? Don't miss tomorrow's interesting developments.)

Church Women Meet

Sheridan—The WSCS met in the Methodist church parlors Wednesday. Ladies of circle No. 1 were hostesses. The program "The World Must Learn to Read" was led by Mrs. Roxy Brown. Mrs. Alice Wright led the worship service.

STEVE ROPER

HENRY



ORPHAN ANNIE

LIL ABNER

CASSIDY HOPALONG

MUTT & JEFF

RUSTY RILEY

DONALD DUCK

MARY WORTH

RADIO PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY—P.M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 MBC	KOCO 1490 Kc
5:00	The 3 of Us	Knox Manning	Challenge of Yukon	B-Bar-B	Swing Time
5:15	News	Little Show		B-Bar-B	Swing Time
5:30	Songs of Times	News	Sky King	Tom Mix	Bing Crosby
5:45	Elmer Peterson	News	Sky King	Tom Mix	Band of Day
6:00	Your Life	Groucho Marx	Edw. C. Hill	Gabriel Heater	Candle Light and Silver
6:15	Your Life	Groucho Marx	Home Edition	N W News	
6:30	Archie Andrews	Bing Crosby	Mod. Romances	Tello Test	News
6:45	Archie Andrews	Bing Crosby	Mod. Romances	Serenade	Twilight Song
7:00	Big Story	Burns & Allen	Lone Ranger	Dinner Concert	Voice of Army
7:15	Big Story	Burns & Allen	Lone Ranger	Dinner Concert	Musical Jackpot
7:30	Curtain Time	Hollywood	Dr. I. Q.	Cisco Kid	Evelyn Knight
7:45	Curtain Time	Hollywood	Dr. I. Q.	Cisco Kid	Sports
8:00	Sinatra-Kirsten	Lowell Thomas	Sher. Holmes	Name of That Song	Track 1490
8:15	News of World	Jack Smith	Sher. Holmes		Track 1490
8:30	Gildersleeve	Dr. Christian	Gregory Hood	Lean Bck., List.	Track 1490
8:45	Gildersleeve	Dr. Christian	Gregory Hood	Trio	Track 1490
9:00	Break the Bank	Frank Race	Irving Berlin Show	Glen Hardy	Mayor Reports
9:15	Break the Bank	Frank Race		David Rose	Mayor Reports
9:30	Dist. Attorney	Beulah	Where There's Music	Int. Airport	News
9:45	Dist. Attorney	Club 15		Int. Airport	Piano Pattern
10:00	Sam Hayes	5 Star Final	Rchfld. Reporter	Fulton Lewis	Mus. for Amer.
10:15	Mindy Carson	You & World	Intermezzo	Mut. Newsreel	Mus. for Amer.
10:30	Spts. Final	Air-lie	Con ert Hour	News	Music You Want
10:45	Orchestra	Orchestra	Concert Hour	O N G	Music You Want
11:00	News	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	I Love Mystery	Nocturne
11:15	Mr. Fix-It	Treas. Band	Concert Hour	Eddie Howard	Nocturne
11:30	Wax Museum	Organ Melody	Memos Tomor.	Benny Strong	Nocturne
11:45	Wax Museum	Organ	Memos Tomor.	Benny Strong	Nocturne
12:00	Sign Off	Silent	Xtra Hour	Sign Off	Sign Off

FM Mer., KGW 100.3, 3-10 p.m., KOIN 101.1, 6 a.m., 12 p.m., KEX 97.3, 3 to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

6:00	Hedge Podge	News	Farm News	News	
6:15	News	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	Timekeeper	
6:30	Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:45	Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	News	KOCO Klock
7:00	Early Bird	KOIN Klock	News	News	Tex Ritter
7:15	Old Songs	News	Agronsky	Rise & Shine	KOCO Klock
7:30	News	News	Bob Hazen	Brkfst. Gang	News
7:45	Sam Hayes	Fred Beck	Zeke Manners	Top Trades	KOCO Klock
8:00	Eddie Albert	Consumer News	Breakfast Club	Barg'n Counter	Ch. in Widow'd
8:15	Eddie Albert	News	Breakfast Club	Family Alter	Fiesta Time
8:30	Jack Berch	Grand Slam	Breakfast Club	Haven of Rest	West'n Melodies
8:45	Sage Riders	Rosemary	Breakfast Club	Haven of Rest	Temple Echoes
9:00	The Second Cup	Wendy Warren	News	N. W News	Melody Time
9:15	The Second Cup	Aunt Jenny	Stars of Today	Galen Drake	Melody Time
9:30	Hometowners	Helen Trent	Quick as Flash	Pastor's Call	Stars Sing
9:45	News	Gal Sunday	Quick as Flash	Willing	J. Ch. Thomas
10:00	Marriage for ?	Big Sister	Ted Malone	Glen Hardy	N W News
10:15	Carm. Cavallero	Ma Perkins	Ted Malone	Kitchen	Music
10:30	Brad Reynolds	Dr. Malone	My True Story	Wiles	Tune Time
10:45	The Playboys	Guiding Light	My True Story	Morgan's Music	58 Kexs
11:00	Double or Nothing	2d Mrs. Burton	Betty Crocker	Ladies First	Music Mart
11:15		Perry Mason	Vic Lindlahr	Ladies First	Music Mart
11:30	Children	Norah Drake	Northwest-erners	Queen for Day	Jan Garber
11:45	Light of World	Brighter Day		Queen for Day	Vocal Varieties
12:00	Kneass News	News	Baukhage	Top Trades	Hollyw'd Music
12:15	Road of Life	Come & Get It	News	N W News	Hollyw'd Music
12:30	Pepper Young	House Party	Jack Norman	Gay 90's	Headline News
12:45	Happiness	House Party	Meta Menjous	Bob Eberly	Dave Dennis
1:00	Backstage Wife	From Nowhere	Breakfast in Hollywood	Bob Mitchell	Mac's Melodies
1:15	Stella Dallas	Jack Holt		Bob Mitchell	Mac's Melodies
1:30	Lorenzo Jones	Garry Moore	Kay West	Tell Neighbor	Mac's Melodies
1:45	Widder Brown	Kirkham News	Kay West	Bing Sings	Mac's Melodies
2:00	A Girl Marries	Kirkham News	Jay Stewart	Bob Poole	Mac's Melodies
2:15	Port. Faces Life	Steve Allen	Jay Stewart	Bob Poole	Mac's Melodies
2:30	Just Plain Bill	Steve Allen	Bride & Groom	Music for Thur.	Mac's Melodies
2:45	Frt. Pg. Farrell	Tune. Yours	Bride & Groom	Music for Thur.	Mac's Melodies
3:00	Welcome Travel	Art Kirkham	Pick a Date	Georgia	Mac's Melodies
3:15	Welcome Travel	Arthur Godfrey	Pick a Date	Jamboree	Mac's Melodies
3:30	Aunt Mary	Arthur Godfrey	Hannibal Cobb	News	Mac's Melodies
3:45	Love and Learn	Arthur Godfrey	Hannibal Cobb	Kostelanetz	Mac's Melodies
4:00	Woman's Secret	Arthur Godfrey	Art Baker	Fulton Lewis	Movie Time
4:15	Life Beautiful	Arthur Godfrey	Squirrel Cage	Hemingway	Philosopher
4:30	Dr. Fun	Curt Massey	Squirrel Cage	Behind Story	Byers Cap Be
4:45	Paula Stone	Edw. R. Murr'w	Firefighters	Car. Cavallero	Beautiful

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Wednesday P. M.—5:00, Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Upbeat; 5:50, 550 Sports club; 6:00, News; 6:15, Eugene; 6:30, Invitation to Read; 7:00, Farmers' Union; 7:15, Evening Farm Hour; 8:00, Shorthand; 8:30, U of Oregon Symphony; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Thursday A.M. — 10:00, News and Weather; 10:15, Especially for Women; 11:00, School of Air; 11:15, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, Ride 'em Cowboy; 1:15, School of Air; 1:45, Melody Lane; 2:00, Home Garden Hour; 2:30, Memory Book of Music; 2:45, School of Air; 3:00, News; 3:45; Music of the Masters; 4:00, University Hour.

Walky-Talky Report on Groundhog

Wuarryville, Pa., Feb. 1 (AP)—Ach, now gives walky-talkies mit der grundsau yet.

Which is Pennsylvania German comment on the announcement that next Thursday members of the Quarryville Slumbering Groundhog lodge will conduct their annual ceremonies with the aid of walky-talkies.

Every February 2 lodge members stand anxiously by the hole of their favorite groundhog (grundsau to the initiated). If the little animal sees his shadow, the nation is in for six more weeks of winter. No shadow—spring comes quick.

Yesterday, William U. Hensel, 3rd, secretary of the lodge, announced the groundhog hunters will keep in touch with each other on Thursday by means of walky-talkies—the portable radios used by army and marine forces during World War II.

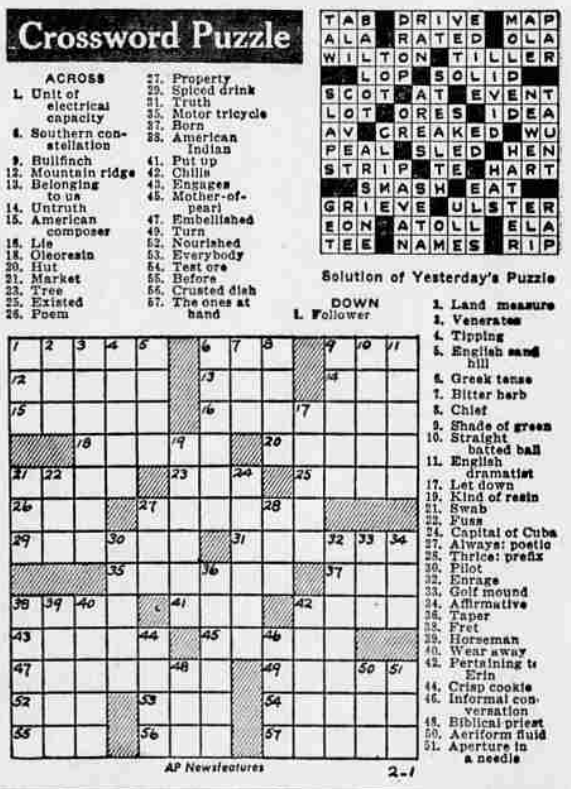
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Unit of electrical capacity
4. Southern constellation
9. Bullfinch
12. Mountain ridge
13. Belonging to us
14. Untruth
15. American composer
18. Lie
18. Oleoresin
20. Hut
21. Market
23. Tree
25. Existed
26. Poem
27. Property
29. Spiced drink
31. Truth
35. Motor tricycle
37. Born
38. American Indian
41. Put up
42. Chills
43. Engages
45. Mother-of-pearl
47. Embellished
49. Turn
52. Nourished
53. Everybody
54. Test ore
55. Before
56. Crusted dish
57. The ones at hand

DOWN

1. Follower
2. Land measure
3. Venerates
4. Tipping
5. English sand hill
6. Greek tense
7. Bitter herb
8. Chief
9. Shade of green
10. Straight batted ball
11. English dramatist
17. Let down
19. Kind of resin
21. Swab
22. Fuss
24. Capital of Cuba
27. Always: poetic
28. Thrice: prefix
30. Pilot
32. Enrage
33. Golf mound
34. Affirmative
36. Taper
38. Fret
39. Horseman
40. Wear away
42. Pertaining to Erin
44. Crisp cookie
46. Informal conversation
48. Biblical priest
50. Aeriform fluid
51. Aperture in a needle



AP Newsfeatures

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

ROOM AND BOARD . . . . By Gene Ahern