Murder in New Orleans

By BRETT HALLIDAY

(Author of the Michael Shayne Stories)

"Sorry, but your conscience worries me."

(Chapter Five)

Shayne turned the stubs swiftly and came upon a third and fourth check issued to Sydney G. Jones at thirty-day intervals.

Why had Walter Carson suddenly begun paying Sydney Jones $500 a month? It looked as though Jones had dug up something so hot he figured Carson would pay more to keep it quiet than Mrs. Barstow would pay to have it revealed.

He went quietly out of the room. There was no one in the hallway. He went on tiptoe to the front door and eased out. He stepped from the porch to the driveway and followed it to a triple garage in the rear. Quietly he opened the right-hand double doors and found his car.

He backed out quietly, turned around, then headed out with his lights off.

At the end of the private drive he noticed a car inconspicuously parked. He turned on his lights and saw that it had a New Orleans police license.

Shayne chuckled softly as he swung out past the parked car. The cop made no move to follow. It was evident that the cop had orders to intercept only cars turning into the Carson place.

Shayne went straight through Main Street. There were lights on in the bank. Shayne turned off on a side street and parked his car in the darkness. There were a couple of questions he wanted to ask Harvey Barstow before he left Cheepwee.

He approached the bank building from the side. Through the window he could see Barstow working on the ledgers behind the teller's cage. He appeared to be alone.

Shayne circled along the dark rear wall of the building to a smaller door.

He rapped on the door softly and waited. Thirty seconds went by, then a bolt was drawn back and the door opened a couple of inches.

Barstow let out a smothered ejaculation of surprise.

"Shayne! What do you want? The police have been here."

"I know all about the police," Shayne growled. He grinned at the stubby pistol in Barstow's hand. "I'm not going to hold up your bank."

"Of course, not." Barstow cleared his throat. "I'm afraid I'll have to report your visit to the police. They say Mr. Carson has been murdered."

Shayne said, "Step out here where we can talk without being seen. I'm trying to solve your boss' murder. I've been talking to Mrs. Carson and now I'm headed back to New Orleans. Did you ever hear Carson mention a man named Jones?"

"I don't think so."

"Do you know any reason why he should have been paying hush money to a private detective?"

"I certainly don't." Barstow's tone was frigid. "Really, Mr. Shayne, I feel it's my duty to inform Captain Denton that you've been here."

Shayne growled. His left hand closed over Barstow's pistol while his right hand went around the man's neck and closed tightly over his mouth.

He wrenched the pistol away and dropped it in his pocket along with Belle's and spoke softly in Barstow's ear. "I'm sorry, but your conscience worries me."

He swung his left fist against Barstow's jaw, pushed the door open, dragged the senseless man inside the back room of the bank, pulled the door shut and trotted down the street to his car.

* * *

Sydney G. Jones stood in the doorway of his Park Plaza apartment and studied Shayne curiously.

"Who're you and what do you want?" he demanded.

Shayne said, "I want to talk to you, Jones." He moved forward and the slighter man reluctantly stepped aside.

The apartment was small. Ash trays overflowed with cigarette butts, and a whisky bottle and pitcher of ice cubes stood on an end table.

"You'd better listen close, Jones," Shayne said flatly. "I haven't much time. The cops may be getting here any minute."

"The cops?" Jones' pale, ferrety eyes squinted drunkenly.

Shayne looked him over with disgust. "I place you now. You're the louse they call Skip Jones."

"What if they do?"

"I'm interested in one of your clients, Jones. This is a murder investigation and I'm one jump ahead of the cops. You'll save yourself a lot of grief if you give me the answers I want." Shayne's eyes narrowed. "What did you find out about Belle Carson in Atlanta four months ago?"

"Who are you?" Jones mumbled.

"The name is Mike Shayne. What did you dig up about Belle Carson?"

"I didn't get anything on the Carson dame!" Jones whined.

Shayne smashed his right fist into Jones' face.

"Don't waste time lying," Shayne growled. "I know you dropped your client and started blackmailing Belle Carson's husband. Five Cs a month. And now Walter Carson is dead—murdered."

Jones cowered back. "Carson murdered?"

Shayne nodded toward the newspapers littering the floor. "Unidentified body found half a block from here last night. A picture of Carson on the front page. Don't pretend you didn't recognize him."

"I never saw him!" Jones' voice quavered. "I got the checks by mail."

"What were you keeping quiet for Carson?"

"That his wife was a bigamist," said Jones shortly. "For Pete's sake let me go to the bathroom and clean up. I'll give it to you. I swear I will. If he's dead like you say, I guess I won't collect any more on it anyhow."

Shayne stood back and let him go to the bathroom. Then Shayne picked up the whisky bottle and took a long drink.

As matters stood now, Shayne didn't know how much difficulty Denton might have tracing Jones to this address. Barstow would certainly tell him about the inquiry concerning Jones.

Jones came back to the living room.

Shayne snorted his disgust. "How do you know Belle committed bigamy when she married Carson?"

"She was married to another guy for about six years. His name was Willis Durkin. They lived in Atlanta."

Jones took a long sip of whisky and water.

"About five years ago the baby girl of the president of the lumber company Durkin worked for was kidnapped. Big shot by the name of Crawford. The kidnappers wanted fifty grand ransom, and sent notes saying Willis Durkin should be the go-between. Crawford coughed up fifty grand in small, old bills. He turned it over to Durkin, and Durkin skipped out with it.

"Later, they caught the kidnapper named Whitey Buford and got the baby back. Buford accused Durkin of double-crossing him. He claimed he and Durkin figured the deal together.

"Willis Durkin got away, clean," Jones went on slowly. "Belle left Atlanta and resumed her maiden name, Belle Brand. She turned up in Louisiana a few months later, got next to a small-town banker in Cheepwee and married him. She committed perjury by stating she'd never been married before.

Shayne thought this over, then nodded. "I'm surprised Carson covered up for her," he said slowly.

"I dunno," said Jones. "He was a big-shot around Cheepwee. It would have kicked up a big scandal."

"What did Carson say to you over the phone last night?"

"He hinted he'd like to talk over a lump-sum payment to keep things quiet. He told me he was having dinner at Dupree's just down the street, and how about coming up here afterward—around one o'clock. I got home at a quarter of one and waited for him. He didn't show up by one-thirty, so I turned in." Jones shrugged.

"That's a fair story," Shayne said coldly. "But you're going to have one hell of a time proving it. You're the only person he called in New Orleans—the only one who knew he was here."

Jones snarled. "He was my bread and butter. He was ready to make a big settlement."

"That's your story," Shayne pointed out. "You've no proof he didn't threaten to expose you."

"Wait a minute," Jones said excitedly. "Maybe somebody else had motive."

He went to a small desk and returned with a newspaper clipping.

"I happened to see that in the paper two weeks ago. Whitey knew Belle when she was married to Durkin. How do we know Whitey didn't trail Belle here, and was putting the screws on her the same as me?"

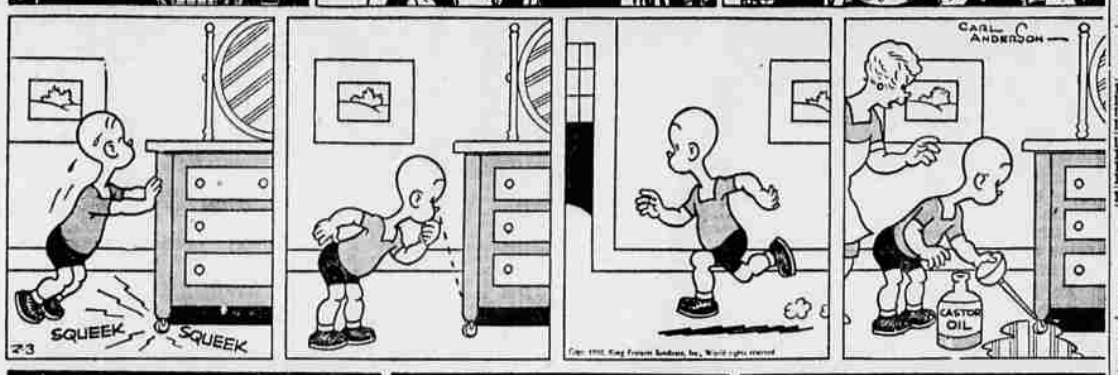
Shayne took the clipping. It carried pictures of two men, with captions saying they were Whitey Buford and his suspected kidnapping accomplice, Willis Durkin.

Shayne read the clipping hastily and with mounting excitement. It described the escape of Whitey Buford from a Georgia prison camp, after murdering a guard, and asserted that authorities had reason to believe the fugitive might be headed toward New Orleans.

(Does Whitey figure in the murder against Carson? Don't miss tomorrow's concluding chapter.)

STEVE ROPER

HENRY



ORPHAN ANNIE

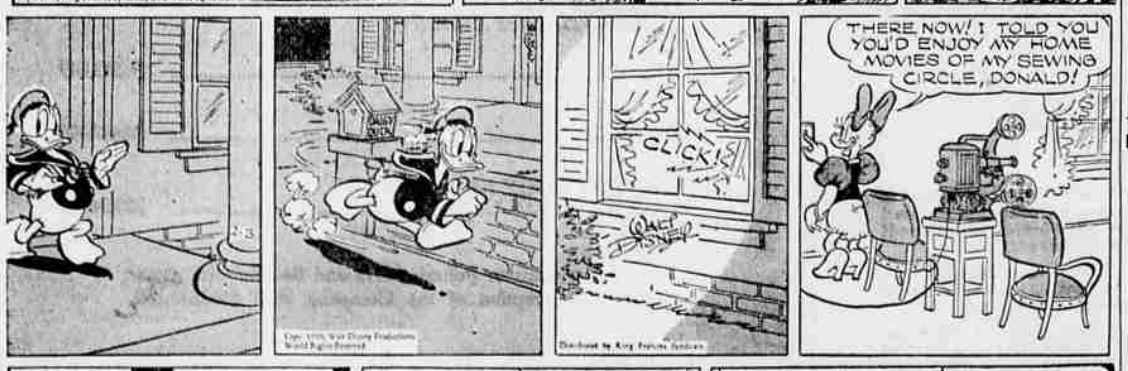
LIL ABNER

HOPALONG CASSIDY

MUTT & JEFF

RUSTY RILEY

DONALD DUCK



MARY WORTH

RADIO PROGRAMS

FRIDAY—P. M.

	KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 MBC	KOCO 1480 Kc
5:00	The 3 of Us	Knox Manning	Chal. of Yukon	B-Bar-B	Swing Time
5:15	News	The Little Show	Chal. of Yukon	B-Bar-B	Swing Time
5:30	Songs of Time	News	J. Armstrong	Tom Mix	Bing Crosby
5:45	Elmer Peterson	News	J. Armstrong	Tom Mix	Band of Day
6:00	Directors'	Leave It to Joan	Edwin C. Hill	Gabriel Heater	Candle Light
6:15	Playhouse	Leave It to Joan	Home Edition	N. W. News	and Silver
6:30	Durante	Show Goes On	Hits & Encores	Tello Test	Fishcaster
6:45	Durante	Show Goes On	Hits & Encores	Dinner Concert	Twilight Song
7:00	Xavier Cugat	Show Goes On	Fights	Sports Mirror	Edw. Robinson
7:15	Xavier Cugat	Show Goes On	Fights	Folk Music	Musical Jackpot
7:30	Bill Stern	Number Please	Fights	Cisco Kid	Evelyn Knight
7:45	Rhythm Time	Number Please	Fights	Cisco Kid	Midcourt
8:00	Sinatra-Kirsten	Lowell Thomas	Fat Man	Straight Arrow	SHS-Astoria
8:15	News of World	Jack Smith	Fat Man	Straight Arrow	SHS-Astoria
8:30	Halls of Ivy	The Goldbergs	Your FBI	Lean Back	SHS-Astoria
8:45	Halls of Ivy	The Goldbergs	Your FBI	Jerry Sears	SHS-Astoria
9:00	News	My Favorite	Ozzie & Harriet	Music	SHS-Astoria
9:15	Orchestra	Husband	Ozzie & Harriet	David Rose	SHS-Astoria
9:30	Dick Haymes	Beulah	Western Skies	Comedy Errors	SHS-Astoria
9:45	Trio	Club 15	Western Skies	Comedy Errors	News
10:00	Sam Hayes	5 Star Final	Rich. Reporter	Full. Lewis Jr.	Warwick Theat.
10:15	Mindy Carson	Sports Spotlight	Intermezzo	Select News	Warwick Theat.
10:30	Sports Final	Air-flo	Concert Hour	News	Music You Want
10:45	Orchestra	You & World	Concert Hour	Navy Air	Music You Want
11:00	News	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Love Mystery	Nocturne
11:15	Wax Museum	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Charlie Spivak	Nocturne
11:30	Wax Museum	Organ Music	Memos	Benny Strong	Nocturne
11:45	Wax Museum	Organ Music	Memos	Benny Strong	Nocturne
12:00	Sign Off	Silent	Xtra Hour	Sign Off	Sign Off

FM Mes., KGW 100.3, 2-10 p.m., KOIN 101.1, 6 a.m., 12 p.m., KEX 92.3, 3 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

6:00	Hodge Podge	News	Dawn	News	
6:15	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Downbeat	Timekeeper	
6:30	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Dawn	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:45	Hodge Podge	KOIN Klock	Downbeat	News	KOCO Klock
7:00	New Hear This	KOIN Klock	Round-Up Boys	News	Tex Ritter
7:15	New Hear This	News	M. Agronsky	Rise & Shine	News
7:30	News	News	Kelvin Keech	Breakfast Gang	Fiesta Time
7:45	Sam Hayes	Consumer News	Kelvin Keech	Top Trades	Extension Serv.
8:00	Fred Waring	Let's Pretend	Home Ascent	Bargain Counter	Reminiscing
8:15	Fred Waring	Let's Pretend	Musical Bridge	Music	Reminiscing
8:30	Smiling	Junior Miss	Musical Bridge	Haven of Rest	West'n Melodies
8:45	McConnell	Junior Miss	Musical Bridge	Haven of Rest	Science Excur.
9:00	Mary Lee	Theatre of	101 Ranch	Northwest News	Pop Varieties
9:15	Taylor	Today	101 Ranch	Bing Sings	Defense Report
9:30	Reading Is Fun	Grand Central	Toyland Tunes	Pastor's Call	Music With Not
9:45	News	Grand Central	Toyland Tunes	Willing	Words
10:00	Star Kings	Stars Over	Stars of	News	Babe Ruth
10:15	Jerry Marlowe	Hollywood	Tomorrow	Quiz Club	Salem Air Res.
10:30	Voices & Wind	Give and Take	Stars of	Proudly Hail	Concert
10:45	Voices & Wind	Give and Take	Tomorrow	Proudly Hail	Favorites
11:00	Lassie	County Fair	Met. Opera	Platter Jock	Sat. Serenade
11:15	Broadway Cor.	County Fair	Met. Opera	Platter Jock	Sat. Serenade
11:30	Young Ores.	Jeff Regan	Met. Opera	Platter Jock	Sat. Serenade
11:45	Young Ores.	Jeff Regan	Met. Opera	Platter Jock	Sat. Serenade
12:00	Farm-Home	News	Met. Opera	Top Trades	At the Opera
12:15	Farm-Home	Barny'd Follies	Met. Opera	News	At the Opera
12:30	Marine Band	Family Party	Met. Opera	Gay 90's	News
12:45	Marine Band	Family Party	Met. Opera	Bob Eberle	Navy Band
1:00	Voices, Events	Meet Missus	Met. Opera	Man on Farm	Sat. Matinee
1:15	Voices, Events	Meet Missus	Met. Opera	Man on Farm	Sat. Matinee
1:30	Musician	Newspaper	Met. Opera	Man on Farm	Sat. Matinee
1:45	Musician	Newspaper	Met. Opera	Man on Farm	Sat. Matinee
2:00	Orchestra	Orchestra	Met. Opera	News	Sat. Matinee
2:15	Orchestra	Cross Section	Jacque Fray	Band Concert	Sat. Matinee
2:30	British Elec.	Farm News	Sidney Walton	College Choir	Cy Shannon
2:45	George Fisher	Garden Gate	Tea, Crumpets	College Choir	Cy Shannon
3:00	News	News	Junior	Baker's Oven	Chin-Up Chat
3:15	Guest Star	U. N.	Junction	Baker's Oven	Chin-Up Chat
3:30	NBC Symphony	Red Barber	Jazz Concert	Sat. Matinee	Chin-Up Chat
3:45	NBC Symphony	Larry Lesuer	Jazz Concert	Sat. Matinee	Chin-Up Chat
4:00	NBC Symphony	Orchestra	Rex Koury	Sportscast	Spotlight Music
4:15	NBC Symphony	Orchestra	Harry Wismer	Hemingway	Spotlight Music
4:30	Bands of Land	War for Youth	Albert Warner	Bandstand USA	Curtain Calls
4:45	Bands of Land	War for Youth	Church, Nation	Bandstand U S A	Curtain Calls

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Friday P.M.—Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Upbeat; 5:50, 550 Sports Club; 6:00, News; 6:15 Dinner Melodies; 6:30, Music of Czechoslovakia; 7:15, Evening Farm Hour; 8:00, Basketball; 9:30, News and Weather; 9:45, Evening Meditations; 10:00, Sign Off.

KOAC Saturday A.M.—10:00, News; 10:15 Especially for Women; 11:00, Concert Hall; 12:00, News; 12:15, Noon Farm Hour; 1:00, OSC Dad's Day; 2:00, Music of the Masters; 3:30, Science; 3:45, Vets' News; 4:00, Song of the Islands; 4:15, Songs of the West.

Hog's Heroism Saves Litter

Chicago, Feb. (U.P.)—A sow gave her life in an effort to save her litter of pigs from a burning barn.

Deputy Sheriff Jack Henning told of the mother hog's heroism.

As he watched firemen battle the fire on a suburban farm, he said, the sow emerged with a pig, just a few days old, in her mouth.

"That sow made three trips out of the barn carrying a pig each time," he said.

"She went back in a fourth time," he said, "but she never came out again."

Crossword Puzzle

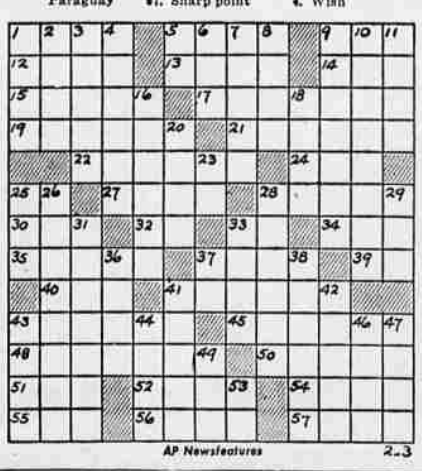
ACROSS

1. Outbuilding
5. Labor for-breath
9. Playing card
12. Learning
13. Smell
14. Iron block in a stamp battery
15. Accumulate
17. Advertising phrases
19. Small
21. Punish by a fine
22. Eloquent speaker
24. Nothing
25. Thus
27. Soap plant variant
28. Decompose
30. River between Brazil and Paraguay
32. At home
33. Pronoun
34. Night before
35. Breed of beef cattle
37. Chances
39. And: French
40. Steep
41. Comfort
43. Minister's charge
45. Long walks
48. Not grammatically correct
50. Regale
51. Horse and carriage
52. Russian river
54. Oriental continent
55. Solid water
56. Roman emperor
57. Sharp point

DOWN

1. Rebuff
2. Residence
3. One of the Muses
4. Wish
5. Cribbage term
6. Public announcements
7. Of the sun
8. College dance
9. Greed
10. Secret assembly
11. Other
16. Red flannel
18. Heredity factor
20. Kind of outer garment
23. Oil: suffix
25. Mournful
26. Pertaining to musical drama
28. Leave
29. However
31. Mean
33. Stop
36. Of the ear
37. Exclamation
38. Kind of beetle
41. English county
42. Genus of stick-like insects
43. Weight of raw silk before being degummed
44. Stupefy
46. Couple
47. Attempt
49. Wheeled vehicle
53. Behold

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle



AP Newsfeatures 2-3

ROOM AND BOARD . . . . By Gene Ahern