

The Ptomaine Canary

By HELEN TRAUBEL

Editor's Note: Just for fun, Helen Traubel, the Metropolitan opera soprano, recently wrote a short "who-dunit" as a present for her friends. Chief figure in the yarn, oddly enough, is an opera soprano who wants to write mystery stories. And now, just for the amusement of both mystery story and opera fans, we are reprinting the unusual story as a short serial, starting today.

Chapter 1
On the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House, Brunhilde Wagner, the celebrated dramatic soprano, was a stately figure commanding the rapt attention of an audience that literally bulged the walls of that ancient structure.

From the orchestra pit the music of "Die Walkure" rose in wild and savage splendor as Otto Furst's baton quivered in the air. Tonight's performance was one that would long be remembered and that would find the critics tossing their hats into the air. Even the musicians and the super-backstage were enthralled. Never before had they heard Madame Wagner sing so magnificently. From that golden throat, poured notes of such voluptuous beauty as to make the senses reel.

High in the galleries vocal students felt like tearing up their voice teachers.
And yet no one, not one single person in that vast auditorium, so much as moved that a carefully considered in the light of subsequent events.

At her side the bearded Wolan briefed her with orders for the day.
Brunhilde cut loose with her battle cry, "Ho, yo, to ho." The orchestral accompaniment swelled with the turbulence of a storm tossed sea and she galloped off to the fray.

Two people were waiting for her in the wing. Her husband, Bill Wagner, and her friend, Lily Furst, the conductor's ex-wife, were waiting. "You were wonderful, darling," breathed Lily.

Others closed in for congratulations. Bill and Lily shooed them off. "You have a few minutes for your next cue," he said. "You need some relaxation. Here—" and he thrust a book into her hands.

Brunhilde lowered herself into a chair. At once her interest was captured by the title of the book, **EMBALMER'S HOLIDAY.** The jacket design showed a female sitting on a gravestone combing her hair.

Avidly Brunhilde turned to page one, hoping that this book would be as good as the last which she had finished just before tonight's performance. For Brunhilde belonged to that vast army of fans who find escape and intellectual exercise in the reading of mysteries. Her yearly expenditures were said to keep a number of authors in a state of economic solvency.

As the opera proceeded, Madame Wagner became immersed in blood, mayhem and detection, oblivious to her surroundings until the director called, "Ready, Mme. Wagner, your cue."

From the stage, Fricka's summons shook the rafters.
Handing the book back to her husband, Brunhilde opened her mouth, got wired for sound, turned up the volume, and strode back on to the stage.

She took her cue from the music, trying to avoid the conductor's eyes. They were not on good terms. Otto Furst, a tall, not-unhandsome man, with baleful eyes and a disordered crop of hair, had many female admirers. Only a few days ago a wealthy widow in White Plains had died, willing him her

fortune.
And then, while she sang, something else swam into the line of Brunhilde's vision.

Faces in the front row—familiar faces—she had seen them before. But where? And then she remembered. They were faces she had seen on the backs of many book jackets.

Brunhilde blinked, unable to believe her own eyes. It couldn't be possible. It must be some trick of lighting, or wishful thinking, or something conjured by her imagination.

And yet—there they sat, smiling up at her, a galaxy of her favorite authors.
Agatha Christie, John Dickson Carr, Rex Stout, E. C. Rieu, Gardner A. Patrick, Ellery Queen, and many others she instantly identified. People who had entertained her and chilled and thrilled her, made her laugh and kept her awake through many a night.

Her gaze veered into the wings. Bill Wagner stood there, smiling. Then she knew. It was true. This was no figment of her imagination. They were all there, out front. She and Bill had often discussed inviting these virtuoso of gore and extinction to hear her sing and later to meet her personally. She was a fan of theirs and she wanted them to be fans of hers.

Her pleasure was communicated to her voice, and it soared now with new glory.

(Why is Brunhilde, accustomed to adulation and the public, so thrilled at the prospect of meeting a bunch of writers? What goes on after the performance? Read tomorrow's thrilling installment, written about an opera star by an opera star who knows music and musicians the way her writing audience knows cops and corpses.)

(To Be Continued)



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2, 3, 4

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Official Photo of the Famous BUDD SEXTUPLT Birthplace
Personally photographed by the Editor

YE SAY I'M TGIT ALL THE PROFIT FROM SELING THESE TRAILER PICTURES, BURB...
GENEROSITY IS MY WORST FAULT, MR. MARKUP!—NOW—ARE MY INSTRUCTIONS CLEAR?
YEP I'M THAVE LID BUDD SIGN EACH PHOTO—THROUGH THIS HERE SLOT, AN' HE GETS FOUR BITS APICE FOR AUTOGRAPHIN' EM!
GOOD...I'LL HELP YOU INSERT THE FIRST BATCH IN THE ENVELOPES!

Miss Tallulah!
You poor dear! I'm so sorry! Is there anything I can do?
I have *laughing* and can't talk!
Miss Tallulah! In the one who can't talk! It is not necessary for you to write notes!
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SCREAM AT ME!

THE LITTLE PRINCESS
IS ONE OF US...
OH, SURE—BUT THE "LITTLE PRINCESS" IS BUSTED—WHAT ARE WE USING FOR MONEY? I'VE GOT A FAMILY NOW, TOO, Y'KNOW...
OH—MONEY—HA-HA! AFTER WHERE I'VE BEEN, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW WE FIXED, BOYS?
YOU ARE STILL THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD, SABLES...
WE KNEW THAT YOU WOULD RETURN, MASTER—THE SABLES COMES BACK...
WELL, BOYS, THIS LAST TIME I WASN'T TOO SURE OF THAT...
IF ANNE HADN'T BEEN THERE WHEN I GOT ASHORE, THEY'D HAVE FINISHED ME, SURE...
3-13-50

D-DON'T SHOOT!
I G-GIVE UP!!
AND I TIGHTLY CONCEALED!!
OH, YOU JEALOUS NEAR-SIGHTED BOY!!
IS THERE ANYBODY IN THIS CLOSET?
NEAR-SIGHTED BOY!!
BANG!! BANG!!
D-DON'T SHOOT! I G-GIVE UP!!
AND I TIGHTLY CONCEALED!!

CASSIDY
WE WAIT HERE, CASSIDY, HE MUS' PASS BELOW EFF HE FOLLOW OUR OL' TRAIL...
AW, I WAS RIGHT, SEE? THERE THEY ARE!
YOU BOYS TAKE THE OTHER ONE, I'LL TAKE CARE OF CASSIDY!

MUTT & JEFF
HELLO, MUTT! NICE MORNING! IT AIN'T LIKE YESTERDAY!
JEFF, NEVER SAY "IT AIN'T" 'TATS' BAD ENGLISH/ALWAYS SAY, "IT ISN'T!"
JEFF, IT AIN'T NINE O'CLOCK, YET, IS IT?
CICERO, YOU MUST'NT SAY THAT! 'TATS BAD ENGLISH! SAY, "IT ISN'T!"
-AW, GO ON! MY ENGLISH IS O.K!
HEV, MUTT, CICERO SAYS, "IT AIN'T" BUT IT ISN'T AIN'T IS IT? IT'S 'ISNT' AIN'T IT?
3-13-50

RUSTY
GIMME THE LOW-DOWN ON THIS GNATCH YOU WANT PULLED, SPUD. YOU SAY YOU JUST WANT TO KEEP THIS KID FROM TESTIFYING? WHAT DOES HE KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW, BUCKY, BUT I HEARD HIM BRAGGIN' TO MILES'S DAUGHTER THAT HIS TESTIMONY WOULD CLEAR SMITH.
I DON'T LIKE IT, SPUD! A SNATCH RAP IS AWFUL TOUGH TO BEAT!
LOOK—IF YOU DO IT ANY WAY, I'LL LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT, SO LISTEN CAREFULLY!
MEANWHILE, AT THE FARM
NOW, RUSTY, OUR CASE COMES TO TRIAL IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, AND I WANT TO GO OVER YOUR TESTIMONY AGAIN. THE TIME FACTORS INVOLVED ARE THE ONLY DEFENSE WE HAVE.
YES, SIR.

DONALD DUCK
THIS IS ONE TIME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PAINT ME INTO A CORNER!
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT STROLL AROUND T' THE BACK DOOR AND RELAX!
3-13

MARY WORTH
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WIKER TO TELL HENNY YOUR SUSPICIONS ABOUT PEGGY MARVEL BRICK!
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ALARM CLOCK THAT WAKES LOVEN' YOUNG DREAM, ALINT MARY!
LET'S GET BACK TO THAT COY CHARACTER YOU SHOOK OFF THE PREMISES! WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
HE REMINDED ME SOME—HOW OF A DETECTIVE!
LIKE I SAID, I'VE GOT GOOD OPERATIVES—BUT ASKING THEM TO CAKE THE WHOLE CITY—HOUSE BY HOUSE—WITHOUT EVEN A PHOTO OF THIS PARTY
PERHAPS WE CAN SUPPLY A SUBSTITUTE? COME IN CHILD!—WE NEED YOUR TALENTS!

RADIO PROGRAMS

MONDAY—P.M.

KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 870 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 MBC	KOCO 1480 Ka
5:00 The 3 of Us	Barnard Little Show	Challenges of Today	Mark Trail	Swing Time
5:15 News	Radio Theater	Home Edition	Tom Mix	Swing Time
5:30 Voice of Falson	Radio Theater	Med. Roman	Tom Mix	Swing Time
6:00 Boston Symp.	Radio Theater	Med. Roman	Gabriel Heater	Candlelight
6:15 Boston Symp.	Radio Theater	Med. Roman	Edna Ferber	At Silver
6:45 Living 1950	Radio Theater	Med. Roman	Edna Ferber	Twilight Song
7:00 Night Beat	Mr. Friend Irma	Jane Ranser	Murder Experts	Believe Experts
7:15 Night Beat	Mr. Friend Irma	Jane Ranser	Murder Experts	Believe Experts
7:30 Brian Donlevy	Bob Hawk	Ethel & Albert	Clisco Kid	Evelyn Knight Sports
8:00 Sinatra, Kirst.	Lowell Thomas	Solo, Sulloway	Let Gen. Do It	Track 1400
8:15 News	Jack Smith	Solo, Sulloway	Let Gen. Do It	Track 1400
8:30 Railroad Hour	Patricia Hayes	H. J. Taylor	The Saint	Track 1400
8:45 Railroad Hour	Patricia Hayes	H. J. Taylor	The Saint	Track 1400
9:00 Telephone Hr.	Inner Sanctum	Ralph Norman	News	Track 1400
9:15 Telephone Hr.	Inner Sanctum	Ralph Norman	News	Track 1400
9:30 Dance Orch.	Inner Sanctum	Ralph Norman	News	Track 1400
9:45 Dance Orch.	Inner Sanctum	Ralph Norman	News	Track 1400
10:00 Sam Hayes	Star Final	Richfield Rep.	F Love Mystery	Music for
10:15 Mindy Carson	You & World	Intermezzo	Mus. Newarrel	America
10:30 Sport Final	Cham. Forum	Concert Hour	Marine Band	Mrs. Van Wert
10:45 Sports	Cham. Forum	Concert Hour	Marine Band	Mrs. Van Wert
11:00 News	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Net. News	Neotrane
11:15 Was Museum	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Cue to Music	Neotrane
11:30 Was Museum	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Memo	Neotrane
11:45 Was Museum	Treasury Band	Concert Hour	Memo	Neotrane
12:00 Sign Off	Sign Off	Sign Off	Sign Off	Sign Off

PM Moe, KGW 100.3, 3-10 p.m.; KOIN 10.1, 6 a.m.; 4.35 p.m., KEX 92.3, 8 to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 6 A.M. TO 4:15 P.M.

6:00 Hodes Podde	News	Farm News	News, Time/pep	KOCO Klock
6:15 News	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:30 Farm Time	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
6:45 News	KOIN Klock	Keep Smiling	March Time	KOCO Klock
7:00 Early Bird	KOIN Klock	Washburn News	Bob Hazzard	Tex Ritter
7:15 Old Songs	CBS News	Bob Hazzard	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
7:30 Sam Hayes	Bob Hazzard	Bob Hazzard	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
7:45 Eddie Albert	Consumer News	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
8:00 Railroad Hour	Grand Slam	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
8:15 Jack Birch	Rosemary	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
8:30 Dance Riders	Wendy Warren	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
8:45 Second Cup	Helena Xen	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
9:00 Homeowners	Our Gal Sunday	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
9:15 News	Big Sister	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
9:30 Marriage for 5	Dr. Malone	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
9:45 Brad Reynolds	Guiding Light	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
10:00 Double or Nothing	Mrs. Burton	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
10:15 Today's Child	Norah Drake	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
10:30 Light of World	Brighter Day	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
10:45 Kinesia News	Home Get It	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
11:00 Pepper Evans	House Party	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
11:15 Happines	Meet Menous	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
11:30 Backstage Wife	Bob Mitchell	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
11:45 Stella Dallas	Bob Mitchell	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
12:00 Wilder Brown	Bob Mitchell	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
12:15 A Girl Marries	Jay Stewart	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
12:30 For Faces Life	Jay Stewart	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
12:45 Love & Learn	Hannibal Cobb	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
1:00 Welcome Trav.	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
1:15 Welcome Trav.	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
1:30 Love & Learn	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
1:45 Woman's Secret	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
2:00 Dr. Paul	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock
2:15 Paula Stone	Arthur Godfrey	Breakfast Club	Bob Hazzard	KOCO Klock

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC Monday P.M.—5:00, Children's Theater; 5:15, On the Uppbeat; 5:30, 500 Sports Club; 6:00, News; 6:15, Amer. Red Cross; 6:30, Music of Celebration; 6:45, Evening Farm Hour; 7:00, U O Foreign Affairs Conference; 8:45, Book of Music; 9:15, Music of Air; 9:30, News; 9:45, Music of Masters.

KOAC Tuesday A.M.—10:00, News and Weather; 10:15, Especially for Women; 11:00, School of Air; 11:30, News; 12:00, News; 12:15, News; 12:30, News; 1:00, News; 1:15, News; 1:30, News; 1:45, News; 2:00, News; 2:15, News; 2:30, News; 2:45, News; 3:00, News; 3:15, News; 3:30, News; 3:45, News; 4:00, News; 4:15, News; 4:30, News; 4:45, News; 5:00, News.

Cliffons Purchase Grocery at Dallas

Dallas—Mr. and Mrs. W. T. (Tom) Clifton of Portland have purchased the Serve-Rite grocery from Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Davenport and are now remodeling and repainting the store preparatory to a grand opening.

Name of the store will be changed to Clifton Food Center.
Mr. and Mrs. John Day and son, Hugh, will continue to operate the meat market of the downtown store. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton have been in the grocery business in Portland for about six years. He was a pharmacist's mate in the navy during World War II, driving ambulance in England.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Peaceful
4. Malayan canoe
13. Deed
14. On the ocean
15. Old card game
16. Health care
17. Curve
18. Close tightly
19. Palm tree
20. French city
21. Strong point
22. Of the mouth
23. Dry
24. Spend inously
25. Contradict
26. Not expressible
27. Detest
28. Yr. of year
29. Grass
30. Pitcher

DOWN
1. Ambitions
2. Meadow
3. Mother
4. Care
5. Wash lightly
6. Eccentric
7. While
8. Wat'ful
9. Covered
10. City in Ohio
11. Thus
12. Suspended
13. Arabian cloth
14. Unvarying
15. Cover with cloth
16. Gain the victory
17. Before
18. Capital of
19. Musical compositions
20. Sullen
21. Landed
22. Property
23. Article of food
24. State of the Union of the
25. Belong to, in
26. Recline
27. Animal's foot
28. Boy
29. That man

ROOM AND BOARD

By Gene Ahern

I CAN'T GET OVER IT YET! "MORTON THE MOUSE" REPEATS HIS LUCK BY PICKING ANOTHER WINNER FOR US SATURDAY AT NANHOLT PARK—NUMBER 3 IN THE 1ST RACE AND RETURNS EACH OF US \$73 ON OUR #10 BETS—HAPPY!

ALL THE HANDICAPERS SAID THE HORSE "TUGBOAT ANCHOR" MIGHT COME IN IF STARTED WITH A TAKE-OFF ROCKET!

SAY, AH—DO YOU THINK I COULD GET "MORTON THE MOUSE" INSURED?—EGAD, WHAT A COULD, AH—OH, PERISH THE THOUGHT!

"MORTON" IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING IN PUFFLE TOWERS.