

The Case of the Negligent Nymph

A Perry Mason Story

By ERLE STANLEY GARDNER
(The Well-Known Mystery Writer in the World)

SYNOPSIS: Maybe Pete Cadiz will be the witness to save Dorothy Fenner, charged with the murder of George Alder. Pete picked up the bottle containing the letter charging Alder with the murder of his half sister and co-inheritor, Corrine Lansing. Dorothy stole the letter from Alder's home, and later (inconveniently) was in that same house at the hour of Alder's murder. Perry Mason is not only defending Miss Fenner, but is suspected of being an accomplice to one or both of the crimes. Now go on with the story—

CHAPTER 19
The crowded courtroom was charged with an atmosphere of excitement.

Claud Gloster, appreciating to the full dramatic possibilities of the moment, arose as soon as court had convened and said, "Your Honor, we have a subpoena under subpoena, a Ronald Dixon."

Ronald Dixon, tall, studious, slightly stooped, came toward the witness stand and Mason, catching a quick glimpse of the man's profile as he walked by, whispered to Della Street, "I've seen that man before."

"He turned to his left and said to Dorothy Fenner, 'Do you know this man?'"

"You're acquainted with the defendant, Dorothy Fenner?" Gloster asked. "You have stated that you are one of the night clerks at the Monadnock Hotel Apartments? ... What are your hours?"

"From four in the afternoon until twelve o'clock midnight."

"On the third of August of this year were you so employed and working those hours?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, Mr. Dixon directing your attention to the late afternoon of the third, will you tell us what happened of your own knowledge with reference to Miss Fenner's apartment?"

"Well, she came in about five-thirty. Then about an hour later a gentleman came in and said he wanted to see her. He told me she was expecting him so there was no need to announce him. Well, that's against the rules of the place, but he looked like the sort of man you could trust—reserved, a gentleman. Well, I sort of hesitated, and when he handed me a five-dollar bill he told me to go on up."

"Now, did you get a good look at that man? Would you know him if you saw him again?"

"Yes, sir. Lying on a slab at the undertaker's."

"In other words, this man was George S. Alder?"

"I was informed that was his name."

opens it. The baggage room is the key to any of the apartments same way. It opens on the alley. It's kept locked but any tenant can use his key to get in. But when that door gets opened an electric signal tells us at the desk. A buzzer and a little red flashlight come on at intervals. In that way we know when anyone's come in from the outside through the trunk room."

"Very well, what happened?"

"This buzzer and the light I'm telling you about came on about eleven-thirty. I thought I'd better investigate. I left the desk and started toward the stairs to the trunk room. While I was doing that, I heard the elevator coming down the shaft. Someone had signaled for it. I ran down the stairs, opened the door a crack, and saw the defendant standing there waiting for the elevator. She had on a white blouse, some sort of blue dungarees that she usually wears for yachting, and a pair of tennis shoes."

"Now, had you any means of knowing whether or not the defendant was in her apartment between the hours of seven o'clock in the evening and ten o'clock in the evening of that day?—Explain please."

"Well, I have to make an inventory every three months of things in the apartments the tenants had to sign for. I'd been wanting to get up to the defendant's apartment, so when I saw her go out I rang the night housekeeper and said, 'The housekeeper, I'd like to check on the apartment. I told her Miss Fenner was out. I'd already told Miss Fenner we'd check her apartment, sometime when she wasn't there. It wouldn't disturb her. She said that was okay, to go ahead. So I told the housekeeper to go on up.'"

"Do you know whether the housekeeper did or not? ... Well, never mind. We'll prove that by the housekeeper." Gloster said. "Now, there is one more question. How was the defendant dressed when she went out?"

"She wore a light plaid skirt with jacket to match. I don't know what color blouse she had on. But I do know she'd changed her clothes while she was out. She went out wearing a skirt and returned in a sweater and dungarees."

"Would you recognize the skirt she was wearing if you saw it again?"

"I would, yes, sir."

"Now, then," Gloster said triumphantly, "I refer you to the People's Exhibit D, the skirt and jacket which the sheriff has testified were found on board the yacht owned by the defendant, the Kathy-Kay, and ask you if you have ever seen these garments before?"

"Yes, sir. Those are the things that Dorothy Fenner, the defendant, wore when she left the apartment."

"When she came back she wasn't wearing those things?"

"No, sir. She was wearing a white turtle-necked sweater and yachting slacks and tennis shoes."

"Now, did you notice anything about whether she was carrying a purse when she left the apartment?"

"Yes, sir. She was carrying her purse with her when she left the apartment house that night. I distinctly remember seeing the purse in her right hand."

"And did she carry a purse when she returned and had the elevator brought down to the trunk room?"

"No, sir, she did not."

(To Be Continued)

"Go ahead," Gloster said, a wide smile on his face. "Tell us exactly what the man did that you saw."

"Well, he got in the elevator and went up, and about forty minutes later the man came down and said, 'Thank you to me and walked out.'"

Mason tilted back in the swivel chair and smiled good naturedly. Now that his case had collapsed in a mass of legal wreckage, he was trying to measure the length of his antagonist to find some way of escape. However, his manner was that of one who is completely certain of himself, confident of the outcome. Suddenly his stomach tightened as he heard Gloster shoot in the next question.

"Now, then, did you see the defendant leaving the apartment house later on during the evening?"

"Yes, sir. I just stepped out of the little office there for a moment, and as I returned I saw the figure of a woman walking rather quickly across the lobby and toward the street door. That woman was Dorothy Fenner."

"And what time was this?"

"About seven-thirty in the evening."

"Now, did you have occasion to see the defendant again on that evening?"

"Yes, sir. When she came back."

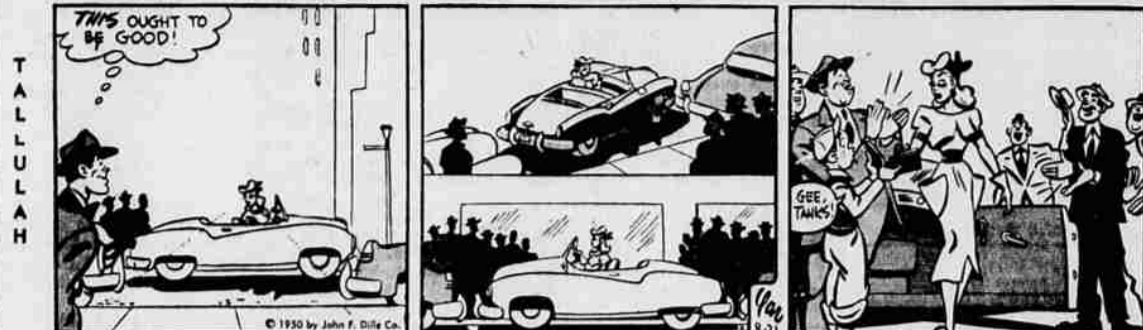
"What do you mean by that?"

"Well, there are some doors we keep locked. We lock the outside door to the lobby at night but any of the tenants can open that door."

"Season After Season—Versatility is the important theme of this jacket-dress version! You'll wear it everywhere—in cotton now, later in sheer wool or faille."

No. 2086 is cut in sizes 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100.

Address Capital Journal 214 Mission St. San Francisco 5, Calif.
Patterns ready to fill orders immediately. For special handling of order via first class mail include an extra 50¢ per pattern.



RADIO PROGRAMS

(Below Schedules are based on Daylight Saving Time)
MONDAY—P.M.

KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 NBC	KOCO 1480 KC
6:00 The 3 of Us 6:15 Little Show 6:30 Voice of Praise 6:45 News 7:00 Clock Q Dancer 7:15 Clock Q Dancer 7:30 Candy Matson 7:45 Candy Matson 8:00 Night Beat 8:15 Night Beat 8:30 Piano Quartet 8:45 Piano Quartet 9:00 Man's Family 9:15 Man's Family 9:30 Telephone Br. 9:45 Telephone Br. 10:00 Music 10:15 Music 10:30 Music 10:45 Music 11:00 Music 11:15 Music 11:30 Music 11:45 Music 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off

PM Mon. KOIN 10 1.1, 4 a.m. to 12 p.m. KEX 9.2, 9 to 9 p.m.
TUESDAY—6 A.M. TO 4:45 P.M.

KGW 620 NBC	KOIN 970 CBS	KEX 1190 ABC	KSLM 1390 NBC	KOCO 1480 KC
6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off	6:00 News 6:15 News 6:30 News 6:45 News 7:00 News 7:15 News 7:30 News 7:45 News 8:00 News 8:15 News 8:30 News 8:45 News 9:00 News 9:15 News 9:30 News 9:45 News 10:00 News 10:15 News 10:30 News 10:45 News 11:00 News 11:15 News 11:30 News 11:45 News 12:00 Sign Off

DIAL LISTING, KOAC 550

KOAC	Monday P.M.—5:00	Children's	KOAC	Tuesday A.M.—10:00	News
6:00	Children's	5:00-5:30	6:00	News	10:00-10:30
6:30	Children's	5:30-6:00	6:30	News	10:30-11:00
7:00	Children's	6:00-6:30	7:00	News	11:00-11:30
7:30	Children's	6:30-7:00	7:30	News	11:30-12:00
8:00	Children's	7:00-7:30	8:00	News	12:00-12:30
8:30	Children's	7:30-8:00	8:30	News	12:30-1:00
9:00	Children's	8:00-8:30	9:00	News	1:00-1:30
9:30	Children's	8:30-9:00	9:30	News	1:30-2:00
10:00	Children's	9:00-9:30	10:00	News	2:00-2:30
10:30	Children's	9:30-10:00	10:30	News	2:30-3:00
11:00	Children's	10:00-10:30	11:00	News	3:00-3:30
11:30	Children's	10:30-11:00	11:30	News	3:30-4:00
12:00	Children's	11:00-11:30	12:00	News	4:00-4:30
12:30	Children's	11:30-12:00	12:30	News	4:30-5:00
1:00	Children's	12:00-12:30	1:00	News	5:00-5:30
1:30	Children's	12:30-1:00	1:30	News	5:30-6:00
2:00	Children's	1:00-1:30	2:00	News	6:00-6:30
2:30	Children's	1:30-2:00	2:30	News	6:30-7:00
3:00	Children's	2:00-2:30	3:00	News	7:00-7:30
3:30	Children's	2:30-3:00	3:30	News	7:30-8:00
4:00	Children's	3:00-3:30	4:00	News	8:00-8:30
4:30	Children's	3:30-4:00	4:30	News	8:30-9:00
5:00	Children's	4:00-4:30	5:00	News	9:00-9:30
5:30	Children's	4:30-5:00	5:30	News	9:30-10:00
6:00	Children's	5:00-5:30	6:00	News	10:00-10:30
6:30	Children's	5:30-6:00	6:30	News	10:30-11:00
7:00	Children's	6:00-6:30	7:00	News	11:00-11:30
7:30	Children's	6:30-7:00	7:30	News	11:30-12:00
8:00	Children's	7:00-7:30	8:00	News	12:00-12:30
8:30	Children's	7:30-8:00	8:30	News	12:30-1:00
9:00	Children's	8:00-8:30	9:00	News	1:00-1:30
9:30	Children's	8:30-9:00	9:30	News	1:30-2:00
10:00	Children's	9:00-9:30	10:00	News	2:00-2:30
10:30	Children's	9:30-10:00	10:30	News	2:30-3:00
11:00	Children's	10:00-10:30	11:00	News	3:00-3:30
11:30	Children's	10:30-11:00	11:30	News	3:30-4:00
12:00	Children's	11:00-11:30	12:00	News	4:00-4:30
12:30	Children's	11:30-12:00	12:30	News	4:30-5:00
1:00	Children's	12:00-12:30	1:00	News	5:00-5:30
1:30	Children's	12:30-1:00	1:30	News	5:30-6:00
2:00	Children's	1:00-1:30	2:00	News	6:00-6:30
2:30	Children's	1:30-2:00	2:30	News	6:30-7:00
3:00	Children's	2:00-2:30	3:00	News	7:00-7:30
3:30	Children's	2:30-3:00	3:30	News	7:30-8:00
4:00	Children's	3:00-3:30	4:00	News	8:00-8:30
4:30	Children's	3:30-4:00	4:30	News	8:30-9:00
5:00	Children's	4:00-4:30	5:00	News	9:00-9:30
5:30	Children's	4:30-5:00	5:30	News	9:30-10:00
6:00	Children's	5:00-5:30	6:00	News	10:00-10:30
6:30	Children's	5:30-6:00	6:30	News	10:30-11:00
7:00	Children's	6:00-6:30	7:00	News	11:00-11:30
7:30	Children's	6:30-7:00	7:30	News	11:30-12:00
8:00	Children's	7:00-7:30	8:00	News	12:00-12:30
8:30	Children's	7:30-8:00	8:30	News	12:30-1:00
9:00	Children's	8:00-8:30	9:00	News	1:00-1:30
9:30	Children's	8:30-9:00	9:30	News	1:30-2:00
10:00	Children's	9:00-9:30	10:00	News	2:00-2:30
10:30	Children's	9:30-10:00	10:30	News	2:30-3:00
11:00	Children's	10:00-10:30	11:00	News	3:00-3:30
11:30	Children's	10:30-11:00	11:30	News	3:30-4:00
12:00	Children's	11:00-11:30	12:00	News	4:00-4:30
12:30	Children's	11:30-12:00	12:30	News	4:30-5:00
1:00	Children's	12:00-12:30	1:00	News	5:00-5:30
1:30	Children's	12:30-1:00	1:30	News	5:30-6:00
2:00	Children's	1:00-1:30	2:00	News	6:00-6:30
2:30	Children's	1:30-2:00	2:30	News	6:30-7:00
3:00	Children's	2:00-2:30	3:00	News	7:00-7:30
3:30	Children's	2:30-3:00	3:30	News	7:30-8:00
4:00	Children's	3:00-3:30	4:00	News	8:00-8:30
4:30	Children's	3:30-4:00	4:30	News	8:30-9:00
5:00	Children's	4:00-4:30	5:00	News	9:00-9:30
5:30	Children's	4:30-5:00	5:30	News	9:30-10:00
6:00	Children's	5:00-5:30	6:00	News	10:00-10:30
6:30	Children's	5:30-6:00	6:30	News	10:30-11:00
7:00	Children's	6:00-6:30	7:00	News	11:00-11:30
7:30	Children's	6:30-7:00	7:30	News	11:30-12:00
8:00	Children's	7:00-7:30	8:00	News	12:00-12:30
8:30	Children's	7:30-8:00	8:30	News	12:30-1:00
9:00	Children's</				