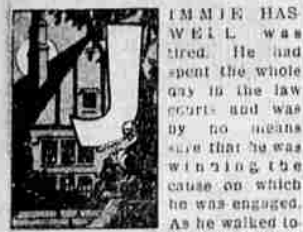


THE CRIME IN THE DUTCH GARDEN

BY HERBERT ADAMS

Chapter 1 INFERENCES



JIMMIE HAS WEIRD... He spent the whole day in the law courts and was... He was waiting for the case on which he was engaged. As he walked toward his chambers in Nichols Inn the young lawyer was asking himself what the chances were that the case would be finished the next day, while dimly contemplating the prospect that the wretched affair might have to be adjourned or begun all over again.

It was no wonder that his annoyance increased when, upon reaching his chambers, his clerk told him that a lady and gentleman were waiting to see him.

"Who are they?" he asked impatiently.

"They said you wouldn't know their names. They come from your cousin, Mr. Donald Wade."

Not feeling too amiable towards his cousin, Jimmie washed his hands, brushed his obstinate dark hair, and asked for his visitors to be shown into his room.

A girl entered. She was fair and decidedly pretty. Her eyes were blue and her coloring good. He put her age at about 23. The man who followed her apparently was a few years older. He was tall and not bad-looking. His features were regular and his hair was rather long, being brushed back from his forehead.



MARJORIE BLAKE

head without a parting. In the style sometimes affected by artists and actors.

"I am Evelyn Blake. We ought not to trouble you, but I live at Waldorf near Bradford and your cousin, Mr. Wade is our nearest neighbor. He said as I was coming to London I must consult you on a matter that is worrying us quite a lot."

She had a pleasing voice and she smiled as she spoke. Jimmie glanced from her to her companion. She added with a light blush, "This is my niece, Mr. Duckworth. He is a singer."

"Donald was so sure you could help us," said the girl eagerly. "I have known him all my life, and he and his wife came to live near us when they were married, six months ago. He has told us of the mystery you have cleared up."

"My cousin is young," he remarked, "and full of strange enthusiasms. You must not take all he says seriously."

"But he is quite sure I've told you the facts that are worrying us. We would know the right inferences to draw from them."

"One should not rely too strongly on inferences," Jimmie countered. "For often there are several explanations for the little things we observe. For instance, I might suggest that you have just been having a birthday, but I may be entirely mistaken."

"Too lovers exchanged a lock of hair," she said. "Why do you say that?" asked the man.

"Your gloves are new, your ties are new, and your cuff links have the peculiar brightness of the jeweler's shop. We all wear new things sometimes, but several new things together suggest a celebration."

"I gave him the cuff links," said Evelyn. "The boy called showing them to my father."

"Anatomical lesson," was damaged by a vandal who smashed it with an axe in five places, police revealed today with the announcement that they had made an arrest.

The painting, which hangs in the Ryer museum, is one of the most celebrated examples of the master's work.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 18.—(AP)—The painting's famous painting, "The Child Coughs" and "SAFELY THOXINE" Stopped quickly with the swallow of

"Today is my birthday," declared Duckworth. "It proves that Donald Wade was right to send us to you."

"Yes," added the girl. "After that, Mr. Haswell, you cannot refuse. May I tell you?"

He bowed and she began her story. He watched her attentively. She was not exactly beautiful, but her features were good and there was considerable firmness in her small mouth. She was undoubtedly a girl who would persevere with whatever she undertook. Failure and discouragement would not daunt her. Yet there was anxiety in her tone, though what she had to say seemed at first hardly to justify it.

"My sister and I live with our aunt, Miss Overdilling. She is a wonderful woman, with a very strong nature. She has great determination and is entirely indifferent to the opinions of other people. Consequently she is not exactly popular, though she is really very kind and does a great deal of good. Perhaps she has enemies. Anyway she has been receiving threatening letters, anonymous ones of course. They are what we are worrying about."

"What exactly do you mean by threatening letters?" asked Jimmie.

"At first they were vague," answered the girl. "They said that she was to be punished for what she had done. Then they grew more definite and said that she was to be killed."

Her voice dropped as she repeated the terrible words. It seemed that she had undoubtedly shaken her.

"For what she had done," echoed Jimmie. "What had she done?"

"Nothing—I mean it just said that—as though she had wronged somebody."

"There was no demand for money? No suggestion of exposure—or revealing secrets—unless payment was made?"

"No. Nothing like that."

"Have you the letters with you?"

"No. My aunt has them."

"How does she regard them?"

"She does not take them seriously. But we—my sister and I—feel that a real danger threatens her and she ought to be protected."

"What have you done about it?" inquired Jimmie.

"We have been to the police, although Aunt Annabelle would not at first allow us to do that. Of course we have also consulted our friends, Donald Wade and others. It was Donald who told me to come to you."

"How long has your aunt been getting these letters?"

"For two months," said Evelyn. "They come at intervals of a week or 10 days. There have been six altogether up to the present. They are printed in rough characters and are all pointed in the neighborhood, though apparently at different post-offices or pillar-boxes."

"Have the police no suspicions at all as to who sends them?"

"At first they thought they might come from a young fellow called Joe Allen. He was an undergarmenter whom my aunt discharged shortly before she began to receive them. He had been heard in the village to say he would get even with her. But he denies everything, and nothing can be proved."

"Why was he discharged? Had he any reason for resentment?"

"Well," said the girl, and the color came again to her cheeks, "he might think he had. My aunt caught him love-making with one of the maids, and that is a thing she will not allow."

"Does she not approve of love-making?" asked Jimmie with a smile, as he looked from one of them to the other.

"No," answered Evelyn, "she does not."

"She certainly does not approve of me, if you mean that," added Duckworth.

"That is bad luck," said Jimmie, "but I cannot quite see why Donald sent you to me. What can I do?"

"He thought," said Duckworth, "that you would be able to suggest some way in which the man who writes them could be caught before he does what he threatens to do."

"The man—or the woman, I suppose? Women are perhaps more fond of sending anonymous letters than men," said Jimmie. "Though insinuations rather than threats of violence are generally their line."

"They might, of course, come from a woman," agreed Duckworth. "We had not thought of that."

slowly, "that your aunt is taking the wisest view of the matter. Certainly the police should endeavor to find out who sends the letters, and if they continue to come I expect they will succeed. Otherwise it is best to ignore them."

"You do not think my aunt is really in danger?"



LIONEL DUCKWORTH

"No," he smiled in reply. "I do not think she is. Such letters are generally sent by some one who wants to frighten but is afraid to strike. That is the only inference I can suggest. A murderer does not spread unnecessary clues. He makes his plans in secret and he strikes without warning. If Joe Allen or any one like him really meant to injure your aunt why tell her so beforehand?"

"Then you think," said Duckworth, "that Miss Overdilling has nothing to fear, and Miss Blake need not worry?"

"Let them take reasonable precautions if they like, but trust the police, and certainly not worry."

"I am glad I came," murmured the girl in a tone of relief. "Donald said I must, but I quite see what you mean. I will tell Marjorie—she is my sister—and we won't let it frighten us any more."

"That is very sensible of you. Hand the letters to the police, but otherwise ignore them. Your unknown enemy will probably soon tire of his foolish amusements."

Depressingly tired, Jimmie was glad to see his caller depart, though they left him to the contemplation of thoughts not pleasant.

Such a tiresome day to court! He frowned at the picture. London gripped by one of its periodic epidemics of influenza and the dull color affected by it. There was a flicker of a smile as Jimmie recalled that the learned judge had sneezed so violently that his wig had almost bounded off his forehead.

He could get away from it by accepting his cousin Donald's invitation to visit him and his wife in Yorkshire. A temptation, indeed, it seemed as Jimmie debated. Good of Donald and Nancy to ask him if only he could leave his business, but it was out of the question. Yet, how tired he was!

A vigorous sneeze jerked him up from his lethargy. He must write the Wade and decline their invitation with thanks.

He did not know it, but that sneeze later was to prove a prophecy.

(Continued on page 9, "The World's Finest Sport")



EVELYN BLAKE

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"Cimarron", Mighty Drama, Opens at Holly Today



Edna Ferber's famous novel of the early settlement of Oklahoma, "Cimarron," opens a four day run at the Holly today. Here are shown Richard Dix, center, who plays the colorful role of "Yancey" (top left); Irene Dunn as "Sabra" and top right; Estelle Taylor as "Dixie Lee."

"Cimarron" is the story of Yancey (Richard Dix) and Sabra Cravat, told with the same rugged honesty Edna Ferber lifted from the oil-drenched soil of Oklahoma to strike life into her novel. Opening amid the clamor of '39's history and the picture moves with unimpeded speed through the whole turbulence of Oklahoma's history. Creating other of the five thousand characters in the picture are William Collier, Jr., as The Kid; Estelle Taylor as Dixie Lee; Nance O'Neil as Felice Venable, and Roscoe Ates as Jess Riekey.

Around Richard Dix in the role of Yancey, is spread this drama of Oklahoma, her men, her women, her heroes, and—well, those glamorous others.

Mrs. Tingley were working on the curtains and couches at the school house Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Glenn had as their guests for Sunday dinner Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lowd of Ashland and Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Lennon.

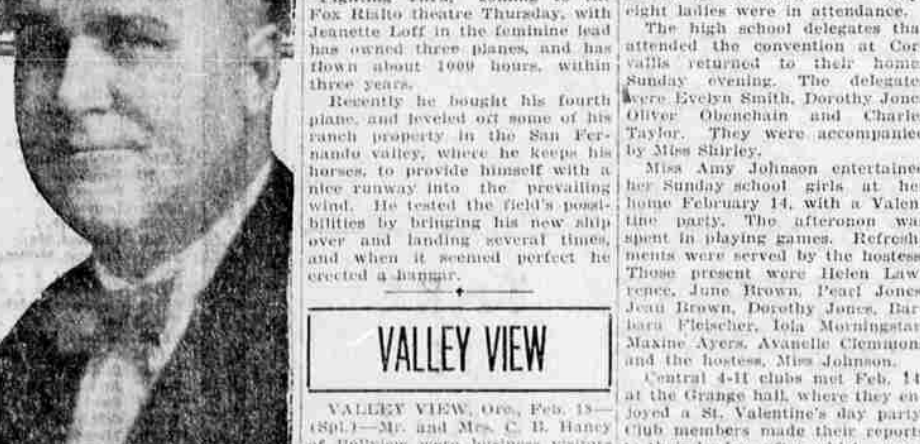
Mrs. A. H. Davenport attended the P. E. O. meeting held at the home of Mrs. J. H. McCoy in Ashland Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glasgow attended the Masonic dance in Medford Tuesday evening.

Elmer Sanford of Seattle was a visitor at the F. C. Hollibaugh home last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fluke and daughters, Prof. and Mrs. Geo. Lowe and Prof. Zobel were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Lowe.

Joan Crawford Now at Craterian



Earl Foxe, Joan Crawford and Clark Gable in "Dance Fools" which started this afternoon at the Fox Craterian theater.

Coming in Opera

with Hilda Burke, Charles Marshall, Cesar Formich and Mario Fiorella, St. Leger conducting, to conclude the engagement.

Western Star Buys His Fourth Plane

Ken Maynard, whose picture, "Fighting Thru," coming to the Fox theatre Thursday, with Jeanette Loff in the feminine lead has owned three planes, and has flown about 1000 hours, within three years.

VALLEY VIEW

VALLEY VIEW, Ore., Feb. 18.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hancy of Holliview were business visitors in our neighborhood Tuesday.

Mrs. M. S. Nichols, Mrs. Wm. Glenn, Mrs. P. C. Hollibaugh and Mrs. W. A. Stratton attended the meeting of the Social club of Alpha Chapter in Ashland Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. L. Simpson were hostesses for the afternoon. Mrs. Nichols won first prize and Mrs. Hollibaugh second.

GRANGE WILL BUY SQUIREL POISON FOR LAKE CREEK

LAKE CREEK, Ore., Feb. 18.—(Special)—Lake Creek Grange enjoyed a better attendance than usual at its meeting February 13.

The following committee was appointed to solicit and determine how much squirrel poison should be mixed for the Lake Creek vicinity: Harry Tom, South Fork; Fred Farlow, North Fork; Ed Meyer, Lake Creek; Floyd Charley, Butte Creek. It is thought that through this post, the poison barley can be obtained for about five cents per pound.

The Grange was glad to welcome as its guest, L. M. Sweet of Sams Valley, chairman of the Pomona legislative committee. At the request of Mrs. Alma Meyer, chairman of the local legislative committee, Mr. Sweet gave a very comprehensive report on the measures, which the Grange should support.

The Grange voted to go on record as supporting any action favoring the grange power bill and intangible tax.

The following program was presented by the Lake Creek community to an appreciative audience: Song, by the Grange, "Shadow Play"; "Irish Washer Woman" by Miss Moore and Harry Tom; reading, "The Refractory Cow," by Mrs. Mary Moore; song, "My Wild Irish Rose," by Loren Farlow, Wallace Ragsdale and Harry Tom; reading, "The Spell of the Yukon," by Raymond Ragsdale; melody of old songs by Harry Tom, Loren Farlow and Wallace Ragsdale; read a play, "Farmer Brown's Theory," by Mrs. Anna Tom; tableaux, "An Elopement," by Mr. and Mrs. Russ Moore, Raymond Ragsdale and Beth Farlow; instrumental musical selections by Loren Farlow, violin and Wallace Ragsdale, guitar; reading, "Charley at the Bat," by Harry Tom; instrumental and vocal selections by Loren Farlow and Harry Tom; violin and Wallace Ragsdale, guitar; reading, "Steve on the Telephone," by Russ Moore; one-act comedy, "His Own Economy, the Wife," by Beth Farlow, Mrs. Anna Tom and Harry Tom; songs by the Grange.

The Salt Creek community will give the next program, Friday evening, February 27. All are urged to attend.

The Grange decided not to hold its regular dance Saturday night. Sympathy was expressed for Mrs. Helen Curbertson and Mrs. Augusta Seefield, who were both reported ill.

St. D. Bewley, who has been in a California hospital for some time past, is said to be much improved.

FREE TICKETS

TO A TALKING PICTURE PROGRAM AT THE

STOPPES Pain and Itching from Piles!

Don't put up with painful piles another day—or hour. There is positive relief, very often, for the very worst case. Pyramid suppositories are designed to stop the pain—relieve even all itching. Relief comes quickly. The first application will bring you a much comfort and ease. Try them today. Remember the name, just say Pyramid Suppositories to any druggist; 60 cents.

FREE PYRAMID DRUG CO.

730-D Pyramid Bldg., Marshall, Mich. Please send me a box plainly wrapped, sealed, postpaid, and entirely free.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____

OPPORTUNITY

FOR EXPERIENCED INSURANCE SALESMAN

Experienced Life Insurance Salesman wanted to take charge of Northeastern Oregon territory for well-established Legal Reserve Life Insurance Company. Must be good producer with ability to appoint and train salesmen. Salary in addition to good first year and renewal commissions. State age, experience, length of residence in this territory.

All replies confidential. Address P. O. Box 488, Portland, Oregon

FREE! LOAD OF KINDLING

With 3 Big Loads of 16-inch Pine Slabs! Guaranteed 4 1/2 Tiers per Load

VALLEY FUEL CO.

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REMBRANDT PAINTING MUTILATED BY VANDAL

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CHILD COUGHS

Stopped quickly with the swallow of THOXINE

Parlin and Woods Drug Store

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