

# MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: Pierre Dufresne, a person of importance in the tragic story who helped him, is ambushed on a lonely road. Watson, the officer, goes back to search for the gunner; Dufresne is reporting the incident to Police Captain Robinson.

## Chapter Two BIG BUSINESS

"DID you see any one loitering or hiding before the shots?" asked Robinson.

"There wasn't a soul in sight, man, beast, or machine," Dufresne answered.

The police chief pondered. "I'm sorry this happened in my bailiwick," he declared, "but I'll look into it myself and see that everything possible is done."

Pierre Dufresne opened his cigarette case and lit a long Russian cigarette. He gave Captain Robinson a shrewd look. "I have my own theory, and I hope it's wrong. If this turns out not to have been an accident, the alternative is not very pleasant to consider. It has shaken up my nerves a bit, but I'll get over that. I doubt if your men will be able to uncover anything, Robinson. It looks like a job for Connors. At any rate, I shall turn the matter over to him as soon as I get back to the city."

It was cold, standing there by the

now I've got real troubles to look after. See me tomorrow, and keep your shirt on—it's no money out of your pocket.  
"But the deadline for filing bids is midnight, tonight," the other persisted.  
Dufresne halted, forcing his mind to forget his personal problems while he dealt with this fresh matter. In a moment he was speaking rapidly. "Two can play at that game. Tell Harry to call back our original bid and rewrite it. Cut the figure \$100,000 and slip in that repaving clause under section 9. We'll let them pay for their fun. And tell Harry to send the papers to me at the Austerlitz for signature."

The puffy man stood back, nodding and smiling slyly at this piece of strategy. Dufresne went on into the busy offices of the Department of Public Safety.

At the end of the room was a boxed-in cubicle with one ordinary-size switchboard, presided over by a very efficient young man. Dufresne dropped into the chair beside him and the young fellow favored him with a pleasant nod. He had a double ear-piece clamped over his head and was listening intently. Presently he pushed these aside and gave his attention to Dufresne.

"Tommy, ask the Director if he

# WASHINGTON RUM STORE LAW GIVEN HIGH COURT OKEH

OLYMPIA, Wash., May 3.—(AP)—The state liquor store was upheld today by the state supreme court in an eight to one decision.

The decision, holding all provisions of the act to be constitutional, affirmed a Thurston county court judgment. Judge John M. Wilson of the lower court, ruling on a suit brought by Charles G. Ajax, Seattle druggist, also held the act to be valid in every respect.

The supreme court majority held it was clearly within the police power of the state to enact a liquor control law and that a constitutional provision barring the legislature from tampering with an initiative law for a period of two years after its adoption does not apply to the question of regulating the sale of intoxicating liquor.

Ajax, in a suit attacking the validity of the law on 17 grounds, sought to enjoin the Washington liquor control board from carrying out the provisions of the new measure. The supreme court majority, however, concerned itself mainly with only three of the questions raised in the Ajax suit.

Smallest Standing Army. CONCORD, N. H.—(UP)—New Hampshire, perhaps has the smallest standing army in the Union. It has 14 soldiers of all classifications.

# LOGGERS PLAN BODY TO BATTLE FOUR 'L'

SPOKANE, May 3.—(AP)—The organization of lumber mill workers in this area, with the avowed intention of displacing the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, is being started here, Leo Welsh, chairman of the organization committee, said today. Nearly 100 mill workers have been

# STANDARD OIL VOTES DIVIDEND OF 25 CENTS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3.—(UP)—Directors of Standard Oil company of California today voted a dividend of 25 cents a share, payable June 15, 1934, to all stockholders of record as shown by transfer books in San Francisco and New York at close of business on May 15, 1934.

# GIVE IT A WHIRL



# THE FAMILY ALBUM—CLEARING THE TABLE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



The operator was listening intently. The mid-afternoon sky was already like twilight, and out of the yellowish gray density came the first fluttering messengers of the hovering storm. The breath of the two men rose steaming, and the Captain, missing his overcoat, slapped his hands briskly together as Dufresne slid into the driving seat.

"Shall I get one of the boys to ride along with you, Mr. Dufresne?" Pierre Dufresne turned over this suggestion in his mind, then shook his head. "I'll be safe for the next few hours, anyway," he replied.

AS SOON as he was clear of the town, Dufresne put on something of his former speed and it was just a little after half-past three when he reached the Municipal Building. He drove into the courtyard reserved for the cars of ranking city officials. The policeman on guard came up with a semi-formal salute.

Several men whom he passed greeted him deferentially. It was evident that Pierre Dufresne was not an unfamiliar figure in this nerve-center of the city's official life. Holding no public office, his position was anomalous but reputedly all-powerful behind the scenes. Once a highly successful architect, he had dropped that for the more lucrative, if less artistic, general construction business. The spreading of that business to State-wide proportions had inevitably forced him into politics, and it may be added, politics of a very practical nature. There were few official quarters in which he could not bring pressure to bear when necessary.

When Dufresne left the elevator at the third floor he was button-holed at once by a puffy man in a suit who had been talking with some men in the corridor. "I've been trying to reach you all afternoon, P.D., the man wheezed. He dropped his voice to a hoarse whisper. "You've got to see the Mayor. They're trying to give us the run-around on that Bridge Boulevard contract. Hallahan has pulled back his original bid and he's cutting \$30,000 under our figure."

Dufresne shook himself free. He looked with impatience at the puffy man. "Don't bother me with that can see me now," the latter requested. "Tell him it's important." "There's a conference of Police Captains, but it must be about over," the operator volunteered. He plugged in the connection and spoke a few words in a low tone into the transmitter. "Five minutes—private corridor—glad to cut it short," he said. Dufresne nodded, lit a cigarette, and kept his eye patiently on the clock until the designated time had elapsed. Then he went through a small door and along a short, narrow corridor which ended at a door whose frosted panel bore black lettering in a semi-circular arch: "Director of Police," and below, in a straight line: "James J. Connors."

As his visitor entered, Connors smiled and pushed aside the welter of papers, as if welcoming an excuse to defer an uncongenial task, then, seeing the serious look on Dufresne's face, dropped the pen and wheeled around in his chair. "What's the trouble, P. D.?" "Jim," Dufresne stated with deliberation, "somebody's trying to 'get' me! I was put 'on the spot' today!" Connors' eyes began to gleam. The pupils, centered in their discs of frosty blue, contracted to tiny points. Beneath Dufresne's habitual polished calm he could discern signs of the strain and panic that the man would permit neither word nor movement to reveal. "Who could it be?" Connors demanded. "Don't tell me it was that crank letter-writer?"

# BETTER POP



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# TAILSPIN TOMMY—Is Monty Eincere—Or Planning Revenge?



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# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Dan Jeppard's Surprise



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# THE NEBBS—Come On, Everybody



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# BRINGING UP FATHER



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## CURE FOR TOOTHACHE BY TURNING ON RADIO FUTURE POSSIBILITY

PITTSBURGH, May 3.—(AP)—Men of tomorrow may cure an aching tooth by switching on the radio. Experiments in treating diseased teeth with a simple short-wave broadcasting set were disclosed today at the annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Dental society by Dr. J. S. Gurtel of Wilkingsburg. He said that experiments have shown that 30 per cent of the germs in diseased teeth may be killed by placing the tooth between sending and receiving plates. Thus far the experiments have been limited to extracted teeth.

## "Algerian Aoudad" Beer Is The Drink

CINCINNATI.—(UP)—Beer drinkers who know their animals will order "Algerian Aoudad beer" when going a-quaffing these days, and that's no "animal crackers." At least, according to Sol Elephan, of the Cincinnati Zoo, who deposes that the animal appearing on the book beer advertisement is not a goat, but an Algerian aoudad. In the second place, he affirms, the aoudad is not a goat, but a sheep.