

# MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

It is a fact that two men are found dead in Pierre Dufresne's splendid house. Although the evidence points to the fact that they shot each other, Sergeant Harper does not believe it. Then, from the reporter, Howard Double, Harper learns that Mrs. Dufresne was not where she was supposed to be at the time of the murder, and that someone has watched the Dufresne house from across the fence. He returns to use his new evidence at once, however.

## Chapter 19 THE ENVELOPES

"JUST the same, Sergeant, it would be a mighty handy weapon to swing over their heads," Lafferty said. "Ten to one it was somebody connected with this house who stood out there watching last night."

"Yes, I'll grant all that, but we're still beaming in the dark. We are not sure whether the marks on the other side of the wall were left by man or woman. They've been covered up too well by the later snow. On the other hand, their condition proves that they were made about the time Officer Hamill came along, for their condition is approximately the same. It may even be that his arrival caused this watcher to flee."

"The answer might be found in a certain room upstairs. You remember what Doyle told you—"

"You think it was Mrs. Dufresne

for identification. Harper's comment as he passed the list to Lafferty.

Another envelope yielded the prints made from the fingerprints found on various objects in the room—pieces of furniture, the liquor glass, the decanter, the cigarette package and the gun. Each photograph bore Jackson's identification of the mark as being that of the dead man.

The fingerprints of Officer Hamill were similarly certified as being correct. They appeared only on the gun which had been found lying under his hand. "All in order so far," Harper was forced to admit.

Next came two small cardboard boxes. The detective opened one, and from the midst of its packing of cotton wool extracted a scarred, twisted lump of metal. There was a tag fastened to it marked with serial numbers.

"IS THAT one of the bullets?" Lafferty asked.

"Yes, this is the one that rubbed out our mystery man," Harper replied, examining the rifling grooves in the twisted bullet. There was a second metal pellet in the box, not quite as mis-shapen, but likewise tagged and bearing a splash of red paint on the bottom. This was the



The detective banged his fist on the table.

who was hidden behind the wall?" "How did you guess it?" Lafferty remarked sarcastically. "The weather last night wasn't exactly suitable for a pleasure stroll."

Harper nodded gravely. "Yes, it looks bad, but she has us blocked very nicely there. We can't do much until Dr. Ulrich lifts his embargo and then all the lady has to do is say that she was outside watching the fire. Evidence that is some one was outside the house is not quite the same thing as proving there was some one inside while the crime was being committed, not with an unmarked expanse of snow between the two locations."

"Of course, we'll have to check up every one's whereabouts for last evening. The real key to the whole question lies in the identity of the man Hamill killed. I'm convinced he's not the absolute unknown they all claim he is. Donaghy threw out a hint of that, but Donaghy's going to be hard to handle."

Harper folded the sketch and put it away in his wallet. "Remember," he cautioned, "not a word about this. Now, let's give science a chance."

THEY sat down at the table side by side, and Harper spread out the first bundle of papers. There were six photographs in the lot, one of the fingerprints of the unidentified dead man's right hand, one of his left, and separate enlargements of the thumb and forefinger of each hand.

"Jackson cannot identify the fingerprints. They are not in our files. He is sending duplicate prints to other large cities and to the United States Bureau of Investigation."

Lafferty nodded approvingly. "That's a good idea."

The next package revealed a series of photographs showing the scene of the crime from various angles and pictures of the dead man in the armchair, both with and without his facial disguise.

Attached to these was Jackson's second report, giving the physical dimensions and characteristics of the victim of Hamill's gun. After the adapted and improved methods arising from the original system of Bertillon, Harper ran his eye down the divisions. "Not much help there

test bullet fired by Carlin from the dead policeman's gun and used in comparison with the lethal bullets to establish the homicidal weapon.

Harper had watched this scientific check-up being made on former occasions and knew that the well-defined rifling grooves, so plainly visible to the eye, served only to establish the make of the weapon, the identification of the specific gun being accomplished through a microscopic study of the web of fine lines extending between these grooves.

The second box contained three bullets, the two extracted from Hamill's body and the paint-marked test bullet from the second homicidal weapon. With these was a paper bearing Carlin's formal report of his examination of the bullets. There was not the slightest doubt but that the bullets had issued from the guns as specified in his findings.

Harper raised the harmless-looking lumps of metal before him on the table and regarded them thoughtfully. "It's hard to see how our theories of premeditated action are going to hold up against this sort of evidence," he mused.

Still watching the fatal bullets, he ripped open the last two envelopes with his finger. One was a bulky manila affair containing the assortment of crank letters which Mr. Dufresne had turned over to the police at the time he had first taken up the matter with them. Harper put them aside for more detailed study later.

The other envelope contained the autopsy report. They had found no additional mark of violence on the unknown man's body. A moderate amount of alcohol was found to be present, but not sufficient to cause intoxication. An analysis revealed that a cooked meal had been eaten about three hours before death.

Harper put down the Coroner's report with a sigh. "Well, according to all the scientific tests and standards these two men, apparently total strangers, suddenly came face to face in this room and killed each other—just like that." The detective banged his fist on the table with sudden vehemence. "I don't believe it!"

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Tomorrow, the mystery of the banging door intrudes itself.

# NAVAL RECRUITER OPENING STATION IN POST OFFICE

A recruiting station for the United States navy, a permanent sub-station to the Portland district, has been opened at the post office here by A. P. Walker, chief machinist's mate, U. S. N.

Chief Walker has been in the service for the past 18 years, and saw duty in the World war, at Nicaragua, China, the Philippines, South America and the West Indies. For the past two years, he has been in charge of recruiting offices in Indianapolis and Terre Haute, Ind., and in Tacoma, Wash.

Requirements for enlisting in the navy, as pointed out by Chief Walker are as follows: Applicants must be over 17 years of age, and under 25, with a good character, in good physical condition, and a mentality above the average. Applicants must be unmarried, without dependents, and must pass a rigid physical examination, also qualify in the general classification test. The young man will be required to present authentic evidence of his age, and must not have a police or juvenile record. If under 21 years of age, he must have the written consent of his parents or guardian.

Applicants are also asked to furnish three references, and school records. Enlistments are for four years. Those who are enrolled are sent to

San Diego, Calif., for four months preliminary training. The recruiting office will be open from 9 a. m. to 3 p. m., each day. The local district recruits in the territory between Roseburg and the California line.

# THREE INJURED IN CRASH OF OIL TRUCK AND AUTO

PORTLAND, May 23.—(AP)—Henry A. Bruard, 48, was fatally injured, and two other persons were hurt today when Bruard's automobile and a huge truck and gasoline tank trailer collided. It was Portland's 37th traffic accident fatality since December 1. Mrs. Bruard and Andy Lash suffered minor injuries.

# \$547,809 RECEIVED FOR OREGON FEDERAL RELIEF

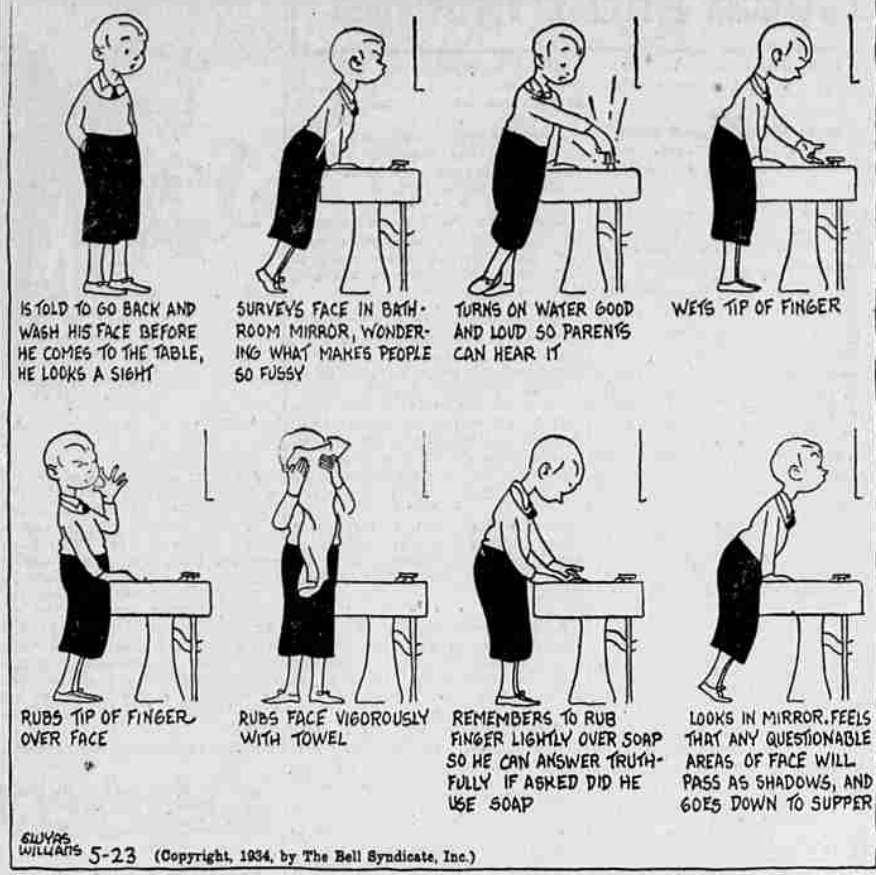
SALEM, May 23.—(AP)—The governor's office received a check today for \$547,809 from the federal government to be used for general unemployment relief during the month of May, including rural rehabilitation and transient relief.

Phone 542. We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.



SAY! YOU'GTA PUT SOME STANDARD GAS. WITH TETRAETHYL UNSURPASSED! IN THAT BOTTLE

# SNAPSHOTS OF A BOY WASHING HIS FACE



IS TOLD TO GO BACK AND WASH HIS FACE BEFORE HE COMES TO THE TABLE, HE LOOKS A SIGHT

SURVEYS FACE IN BATH-ROOM MIRROR, WONDERING WHAT MAKES PEOPLE SO FUGGY

TURNS ON WATER GOOD AND LOUD SO PARENTS CAN HEAR IT

WEIGS TIP OF FINGER

RUBS TIP OF FINGER OVER FACE

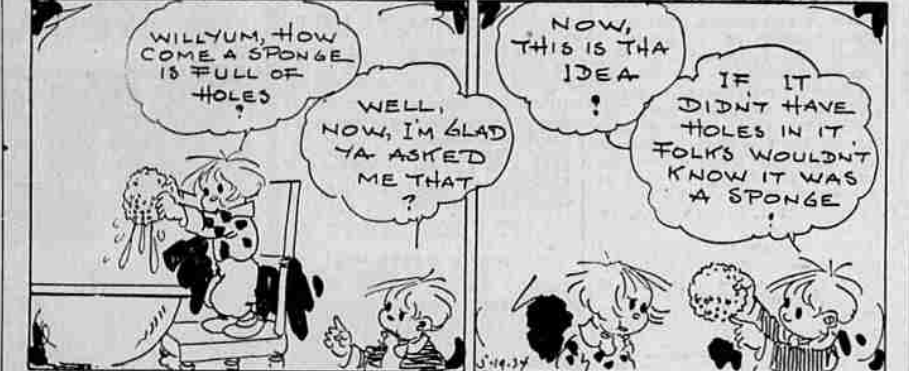
RUBS FACE VIGOROUSLY WITH TOWEL

REMEMBERS TO RUB FINGER LIGHTLY OVER SOAP SO HE CAN ANSWER TRUTHFULLY IF ASKED DID HE USE SOAP

LOOKS IN MIRROR, FEELS THAT ANY QUESTIONABLE AREAS OF FACE WILL PASS AS SHADOWS, AND GOES DOWN TO SUPPER

GLUYAS WILLIAMS 5-23 (Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

# SMATTER POP—



WILLYUM, HOW COME A SPONGE IS FULL OF HOLES

WELL, NOW, I'M GLAD YA ASKED ME THAT

NOW, THIS IS THE IDEA

IF IT DIDN'T HAVE HOLES IN IT, FOLKS WOULDN'T KNOW IT WAS A SPONGE

SPLUSH!

AN IT WOULDN'T HOLD WATER, AN IT WOULD BE NO GOOD TO SOCK ANYBODY WITH!

HEY! SMATTER, NOW?

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# TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Real Thing



WILKINS AND DOUGLAS ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE IN AN AERIAL DUEL FOR AN EPISODE IN THE FILM "MIDNIGHT PATROL." WILKINS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SHOT DOWN BY HIS PAL, WHO IS CAST AS THE RED BARON

SNAP INTO IT, DOUGS—I'LL HAVE TO REY DOWN A BIT TO LET YOU CATCH UP!

FIVE THOUSAND—HERE'S WHERE I START MY IMMELMAN!

GOT 'IM RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS NOW!

HEY...! THOSE ARE REAL BULLETS—...WHAT!...

HAL FORREST

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# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Cap'n Ike Tells One



SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY LUKE'S REMARKS, BEN STARTED AFT TO THE GALLEY PRESIDED OVER BY ALONZO—HE HALTED, THOUGH, JUST THIS SIDE OF THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN!

OH, SHIFTY! COME FORWARD!

THAT'S A NEW ONE ON ME, CAPN IKE—WHO'S SHIFTY?

—AN' THE LAD HERE HEARD ME SING OUT FOR YOU AS SHIFTY—NOW, MR. PITTS, TELL HIM HOW YOU GOT THAT NAME—GO ON, YOU BLUSHIN' VIOLET! TONGUE-TIED, AIN'T YOU, 'CAUSE IT'S A HERO YOU WAS? ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL HIM—

WE WAS SAILOR LADS TOGETHER IN A RAGIN' STORM! GREAT WAVES WAS BREAKIN' OVER US! ONE LONE BOY WAS ON DECK—DID HE MIND 'EM? NO! LIKE A CAT ON HIS FEET, HE WAS SHIFIN' HERE, THERE AN' EVERYWHERE, BUT DOIN' HIS DUTY! NO WONDER WE CALLED THAT BRAVE LAD, SHIFTY! EH, MR. PITTS?

THAT'S RIGHT, CAPN IKE—

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# THE NEBBS—The Kid's Good



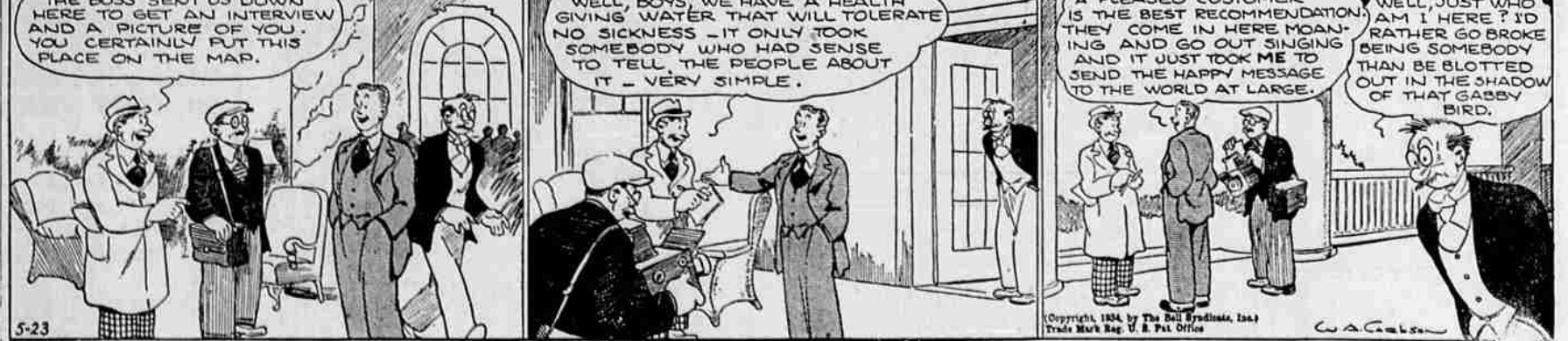
THE BOSS SENT US DOWN HERE TO GET AN INTERVIEW AND A PICTURE OF YOU. YOU CERTAINLY PUT THIS PLACE ON THE MAP.

WELL, BOYS, WE HAVE A HEALTHY GIVING WATER THAT WILL TOLERATE NO SICKNESS—IT ONLY TOOK SOMEBODY WHO HAD SENSE TO TELL THE PEOPLE ABOUT IT—VERY SIMPLE.

A PLEASED CUSTOMER IS THE BEST RECOMMENDATION. AM I HERE? I'D RATHER GO BROKE BEING SOMEBODY THAN BE BLOTTED OUT IN THE SHADOW OF THAT GABBY BIRD.

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# BRINGING UP FATHER



CAN I BE OF ANY SERVICE, SIR? I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU.

NO! JUST DON'T BOTHER ME!

MAGGIE WON'T LET ME OUT AN I JUST CAN'T SNEAK BY HER

MR. JIGGS—ER—ER—

GET OUT OF HERE!

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU YOUR WIFE WENT OUT TWO HOURS AGO!

5-23

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YUGOSLAV STUDENTS RESIST POLICE SIEGE

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, May 22.—(AP)—Yugoslav students, in control of two university buildings, stood off a police attempt to suppress their rioting today with the warning that they would throw five professors they hold as hostages from the high windows if the police enter.

Six hundred students, including 60 co-eds, took over the two buildings yesterday.

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**WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT**  
THE PERFECT GUM  
SWEETENS THE BREATH  
The Standard of Quality