

# MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: Sergeant Harper has found proof that the policeman and the stranger found shot to death in Pierre Dufresne's house did not kill each other. But one bit of evidence seems to connect the beautiful Mrs. Dufresne with the deed, and the other, which is the fact that the stranger died of a wound from a .38 calibre revolver instead of from the .38 calibre bullet found in the room, points toward Mr. Dufresne. A .45 revolver seen in his room has disappeared.

Chapter 24

## AMBIGUOUS REPLIES

THE usual place for Mr. Dufresne's gun is in the hobby in his dressing-room," Harper asked. Andrews nodded in agreement. "Now, does any other member of this household keep a gun or revolver on hand?" "Donaghy, sir. He has a special permit to carry a weapon. Mr. Dufresne's order."

"What type of gun is it?" "An automatic. I am not familiar with calibers."

"Not that I know of, unless you want to take account of the guns in Mr. Dufresne's armor room."

The detective smiled and shook his head. "No, I've seen them and they're all antique collectors' pieces."

"Are you still positive that you do not recognize the murdered man? Look at these photos again."

The old man examined the three facial views without the slightest sign of hesitancy or repugnance. "He is a complete stranger to me," he reiterated, returning them.

"Then how about Hamill, the policeman? Did you ever talk to him?" "No, sir. No doubt I have seen him in the neighborhood at times, but I never paid any particular attention."

"All right, Andrews. That will be all for the present. If there are more questions we'll deal with them as they arise."

The butler withdrew as quietly as he had entered, leaving Harper feeling highly elated over the success of his ruse. It was plain that old Andrews suspected nothing about the revolver which had reposed in his master's room, and since it was gone, Dufresne himself had probably made off with it. The promptness of the hiding, too, suggested that Dufresne had been the eavesdropper by the cellar stairs.

The important thing was to gain possession of that gun. At that moment Lafferty returned to the breakfast-room. "There's no doubt of its being gone," he reported. "I looked everywhere. Dufresne walked in while I was searching."

"How did he act?" Harper asked eagerly. "Suspicious and inclined to be a trifle nasty about it. How did you come out?"

"Andrews readily admitted that the revolver is Dufresne's."

"Then Dufresne hid it," Lafferty declared emphatically. "It's too bad we have to tread so damned quietly there."

"What do you mean?" Lafferty gave a wry smile. "Why, Dufresne's the one man we simply can't pin it on. He's the only one of the lot with a 100% bulletproof alibi. He was not only dead drunk at the time of the killing but looked away under police guard. Yet he knew that the fellow was shot with that gun and not by Hamill's, otherwise he wouldn't have hidden it. Say," he exclaimed, looking startled, "how in thunder did he come to know that?"

"I got your message, Sergeant," Quigley explained. "What's on your mind?"

"There are plenty of puzzling features, Captain. But what I wanted was to ask some questions about Officer Hamill. First, what was his rating on marksmanship?"

"First class," Quigley answered promptly. "Hamill's had a sharpshooter's citation for years."

As Harper remained silent, the Captain of the Fourteenth went on, "I see what's in your mind, Harper, but even a rotten shot could pop his man over at that distance."

"There's much more to it than that," the Sergeant answered. "What about Hamill personally? Was he nervous, hasty, quick to use his gun?"

"No, no, nothing like that. Just the opposite. Hamill was a quiet, cool chap, very sure of himself. His theory was that guns should be used only as a last resort."

"Tell me this, Captain. Did Hamill know Mr. Dufresne by sight? Did he know that the Dufresne house was untenanted at this time?"

"Your first question I can't answer definitely, but I don't believe he did. I've been attached to the Fourteenth for eight years and I never met him. The answer to your second question is 'Yes.' Last June 21st a notice was filed with us that the Dufresne family was leaving for the summer. This notice was given by a John Whitmore. Know him?"

Harper nodded. "He's one of the servants here."

"Have you any record of an automobile found abandoned in this district? Were any cars tagged last night for illegal or overnight parking?"

Quigley looked surprised. "Not one, Harper. Nobody with any sense would have left a car out in that storm."

"Well, I appreciate your help, Captain. I've got a much clearer picture of Hamill, at any rate."

THE commander of the Fourteenth Precinct took his leave and Harper rose from the table. "I guess it's time we twisted the lion's tail," he remarked. "We'll get Mr. Dufresne's personal opinion on guns that disappear into thin air."

The detective, however, was spared the trouble of sending for the master of the house for at that moment Pierre Dufresne himself walked into the breakfast-room.

"Good morning, Mr. Dufresne," Harper greeted him. "This is my colleague, Detective Lafferty. You probably saw him around here last night."

"Yes, and this morning, too—exploring my wardrobe. How are things going, Sergeant?"

"Oh, as well as can be expected," Harper replied casually. "There is so much routine in a case like this. By the way, Mr. Dufresne, I must list the firearms on the premises. Can you give me a list?"

"Firearms, Harper? Well, taking myself first—I have a gun, of course, and a police permit to carry it, although I have never availed myself of the privilege. Do you require?"

# HIAWATHA SEEN AS REAL FIGURE IN U. S. HISTORY

Ethnologist Reveals Facts About Famed Longfellow Character — Poet Confused Personalities, Claim

WASHINGTON (UP)—Belief that Hiawatha, legendary hero of Longfellow's famous poem, was an actual historic figure, who lived between 1850 and 1900, has been expressed by J. N. B. Hewitt, Smithsonian institution ethnologist.

Hewitt has made a lifetime study of the institutions and history of the Six Nations, and believes that Hiawatha's character was affected so by personal misfortunes that he welcomed the doctrine of human brotherhood preached by Dekanawida, great Iroquois redeemer. He became Dekanawida's first disciple and most active associate in establishing the Iroquois League which Hewitt said, was the tangible embodiment of the law-maker's advanced philosophy.

Characters Confused In Longfellow's poem, Hewitt pointed out, Hiawatha, Dekanawida, and various other mythological characters were confused. Consequently, the ethnologist has cleared the tale of pure legend and secured what he believes to be the true story of Hiawatha.

Hiawatha, Hewitt began, was a brother of Dehadodaho, chief of the

Onondegas, who hated him and allegedly murdered his wife and children. Exiled from his ruined home, the heart-broken Hiawatha sought sympathy from other Iroquois tribes. He finally found refuge with the Mohawks, re-married and became the father of a second family.

However, Hewitt continued, his misfortunes stirred him so that, in true cannibal fashion, he killed a stranger and took the body home to eat. Dekanawida, a friendless wanderer, after witnessing the crime followed Hiawatha, climbed to the roof of the slayer's lodge and peered down the smoke hole.

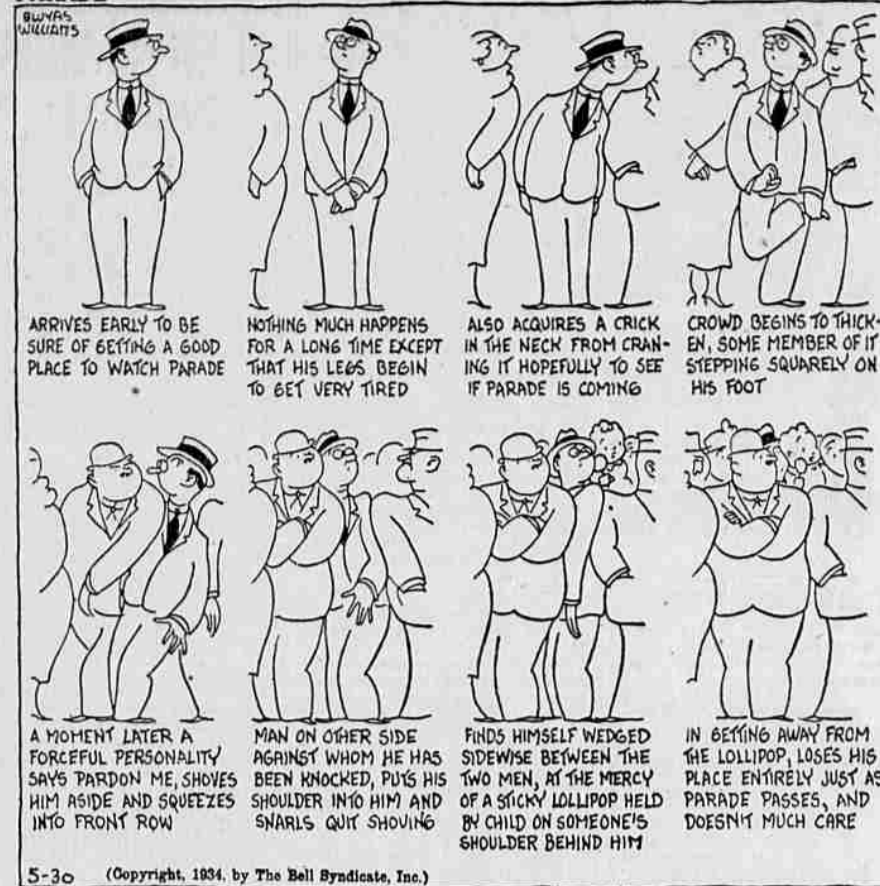
It was here, the ethnologist believes, that Dekanawida talked to Hiawatha. The redeemer's ideas were extremely radical and, it was thought, proved difficult for Hiawatha to grasp. Nevertheless, the two returned to the village and laid plans for establishing the League. It is believed that Hiawatha and Dekanawida labored 30 years before their new gospel of human brotherhood was accepted.

Astonished by Reflection



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

# PARADE



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

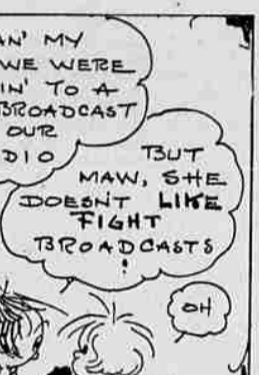
# S'MATTER POP



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



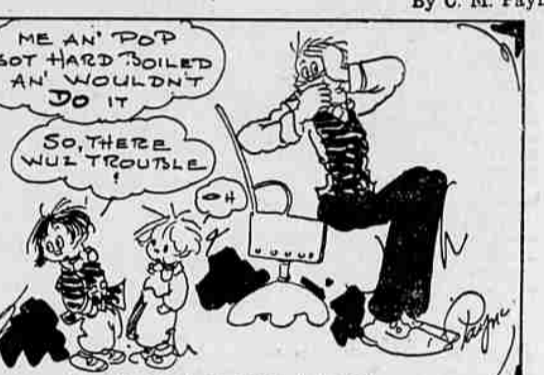
Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

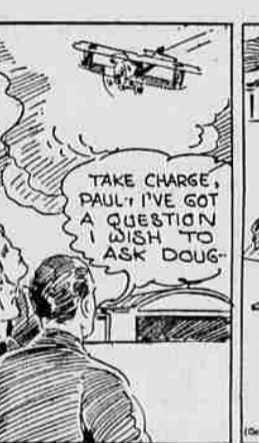
# TAILSPIN TOMMY—Can Douglas Explain?



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Cap'n Ike Performs



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

# THE NEBBS—Surrender



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

# BRINGING UP FATHER



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



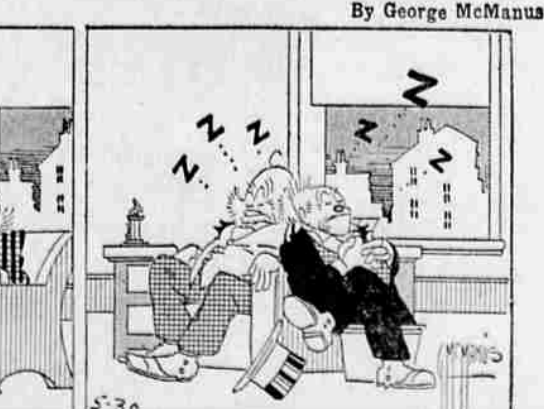
Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.



Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.

Wrigley's Gum advertisement featuring 'Wrigley's Spearmint Gum' and 'The Standard of Quality' logo.