

MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: The fact that a revolver of the size used to kill a stranger, found murdered in Pierre Dufresne's dressing room, has been seen in Dufresne's dressing room, leads Sergeant Harper to question Dufresne. But Dufresne says his gun is an automatic of different calibre, and is not in the house. He asks Harper when the police are going to leave his house.

Chapter 25 OUTBURST

HARPER'S reply was as bland as any Oriental's evasion. "We're not quite ready for that, Mr. Dufresne. The dead man has not yet been identified, for one thing. There are some points to be cleared up—" The detective left it thus vaguely, "points to be cleared up." Lafferty, lurking in the background, grinned to himself at the phrase.

our discoveries but I'll hold back as much as I can." "I'm curious to hear how he's going to wiggle out of that denial about the revolver." "I was surprised," Harper admitted. "His best move would have been to acknowledge ownership of the gun and then act surprised when it is found to be missing."

Lafferty yawned. "I'd like a little more action. This house is as quiet as a museum. I'd like to catch that Andrews fellow listening at a key-hole or have a good run-in with Donaghy. What's next on the cards?"

HARPER consulted his list of memoranda. "Call up Headquarters and tell them to send up a plainclothesman. We'll send him off on a round of the theatrical outfits and costumes to see if he can find where that disguise was bought."

"Then get hold of the reporters and announce that we want the co-operation of all garages in finding the car which our man must have used. If they run that in connection with the dead man's picture it might lead to something. Now I'm going upstairs to have a little visit with Mrs. Dufresne." The detective went up to the second floor and knocked quietly on the bedroom door. There was an answer-



"The investigation must be carried out."

haps," he said quietly. "We are not concerned with him alone. One of our own men lost his life through this business. That certainly gives us a direct and personal stake."

"I've sent for Director Connors," Dufresne announced, abruptly. "He promised to come up here some time this morning and I shall certainly place my views before him. It's too much. After all, the thing is done, the evidence is very plain."

"Mr. Dufresne, this is a murder case and I warn you that it is not possible to have the necessary investigations turned on and off like a water spigot, no matter how much inconvenience may be involved."

"Now, now, Harper, don't nourish any antagonistic feelings. I mean no personal disparagement, but what more is there to investigate?" "There are quite a few unanswered questions," the detective retorted.

DUFRESNE smiled in a superior way. "Yes, and so far as I can see they are likely to remain unanswered. The man is dead, his menace is ended. I am completely satisfied. All I ask now is that peace and quiet be restored to my home so that Mrs. Dufresne may recover from her shock and injury. I am sorry about the policeman, Hamill. If he leaves a family in need, I'll be glad to do what I can for them." Harper stood up straight. "We have no latitude in such matters, Mr. Dufresne. The investigation must be carried out in the prescribed manner. Director Connors could order my removal from the case but the work would go on under other hands. I can assure you of that."

Dufresne looked at him, much annoyed, then nodded curtly and stalked out of the room.

"Nasty little bantam when the game doesn't go entirely his way," Lafferty commented. "But we can change his tune quick enough. Next thing he'll be trying to buy us off."

"Bribery is not in his line but he'll bring pressure to bear and he won't let any grass grow under his feet. He doesn't know how much we've turned up, so he'll use his influence with Connors to force our hands. We'll have to go to bat with

ing rustle from within, then the door opened a few inches and a woman in a starched white dress and nurse's cap looked out. Her plain, severe features, innocent of all cosmetics, expressed annoyance.

"I'm Sergeant Harper," the detective announced. "I came up to see how Mrs. Dufresne is progressing." "She is asleep just now," the nurse answered in low, precise tones.

"You are the nurse Dr. Ulrich sent for last night?" "Yes, my name is Burkett."

Harper smiled and bowed slightly. "I suppose Mrs. Dufresne is not allowed out of bed?" "No indeed."

Harper noticed Miss Burkett's weary eyes and tired look. "I guess you could do with some sleep yourself," he said, kindly. "You've been on the job nearly twelve hours, haven't you?" "The relief nurse will be here at noon," Miss Burkett answered shortly and turned back into the room, closing the door quietly but firmly.

They certainly have a cordial and unanimous dislike for us in this house, mused Harper, eyeing the closed door. I suppose the great Ulrich has been telling her what co-sacks we are. Well, there is one thing certain at least—Mrs. Dufresne didn't run off with her husband's revolver. But this thought brought up its natural corollary—had Pierre Dufresne acted thus to screen his wife?

Andrews approached him as he reached the foot of the stairs. "You are wanted in the breakfast-room air. The gentlemen have arrived." The detective thought there was an undertone of malicious pleasure in the butler's announcement, but he said nothing.

Harper entered the breakfast-room to find not only the redoubtable James J. Connors, Director of Police, but also Captain Macklin, of the Homeless Bureau, the Sergeant's immediate superior. Pierre Dufresne was there also and the three men were talking together in a very friendly manner.

The detective saluted sharply and the salute was returned.

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Harper has trouble, tomorrow, with the peacemakers.

OREGON'S RURAL RELIEF PROGRAM READY TO START

PORTLAND, Ore., May 31.—(AP)—Oregon's rural relief program is ready to start.

Elmer F. Goudy, state emergency relief administrator, who returned yesterday from Salt Lake City, where he attended a rural rehabilitation conference, said today that as one of the first six states to get a start on rural relief work, Oregon has a definite program, outlined by the state relief committee and approved by the federal emergency relief administration.

An allotment of \$62,500 has been made for the start of the program. The first stage of the plan will embrace relief for families on farms and small tracts of good land, who are financially insecure but capable of rehabilitating themselves, if given capital goods, such as machinery and domestic animals.

The second stage will be removal of relief families from sub-marginal or unproductive land, to production tracts, where it is possible for them to become self-supporting.

The third stage will be assistance of small numbers of carefully selected relief families in urban areas toward removal to productive farm tracts. In this project, newly made farmers will be limited to production of crops for family consumption. Part-time employment off the farms will be provided for the men thus transplanted, so necessary cash income may be earned. This work will be either on public or private jobs.

QUINTUPLETS KEEP ATTENDANTS BUSY

NORTHBAY, Ont., May 31.—(AP)—The Dionne quintuplets—Cecile, Yvonne, Marie, Emily and Annette—were alive today after more than 50 hours in the world and taking nourishment from an eye dropper.

A mixture of milk, corn syrup and water is dropped in their tiny mouths and it takes so long that when the

last has been fed the first is hungry again. Consequently a large staff of attendants is necessary at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Olive Dionne who have five other children, Pauline, Danie, Ernest, Therese and Rose.

Many Golf Fees Cut CINCINNATI, (UP)—Municipal golf course fees for 1934 have been slashed drastically here. Courses, heretofore, were operated on a profit plan, but rates were cut this year in order that public links might be continued. Fees of \$15 for men and \$10 for women have been approved.



HEY THERE MINNIE O'MALLEY—HOW DO YA' GET FROM PORT TO PORT SO FAST?

TO GET AROUND FAST CAPTAIN—ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TANK UP WITH STANDARD GASOLINE WITH TETRAETHYL UNSURPASSED!

THE POWER OF SILENCE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



DOESN'T WANT TO TAKE HIS NAP, FEELS LONELY AND UNHAPPY, AND WISHES THEY'D PICK HIM UP



AND FURTHERMORE, IS GETTING PRETTY CROSS ABOUT IT TOO



HEARS PARENTS CONFERRING AT DOOR, VERDICT BEING HE'LL HAVE TO CRY IT OUT AND HE CAN'T GET UP TILL NAP IS OVER



TRIES TO REVERSE THE DECISION BY PUNYING ON PRESSURE



NO USE, ALL RIGHT, HE'LL LET THEM HAVE IT.



CHANGES MIND AND ABRUPTLY STOPS CRYING. WHAT DOES HE CARE!



IS SURPRISED TO HEAR PARENTS AT DOOR AGAIN, MOTHER ARGUING SOMETHING MAY BE WRONG, THE SILENCE ISN'T NATURAL



HE MAY HAVE SWALLOWED A BUTTON OR CHOKED ON SOMETHING! PARENTS COME IN



GREET'S THEM WARMLY, GLAD TO HAVE LEARNED A NEW WAY OF MAKING THEM COME TO HIM

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'SMATTER POP—



POP, TAKE ME TO AFRICA I WANT A LOOK AT ANIMALS!



HAVEN'T GOT TIME! I'VE GOTTA FIGURE THIS!



I WUZ TOLD THEY USE ELLYFUNTS TO MAKE BILLIARD BALLS



IF YOU MUST LOOK AT ANIMALS, YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT THOSE YOU'LL FIND AROUND HERE!



'SMATTER?



OH-H-H-H, I'VE GOTTA SIT HERE JUST LOOKIN' AT A OLD CAT

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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Can Douglas Explain?



DOUG, YOU WERE ASSIGNED ACCORDING TO SCRIPT TO ATTACK WILKINS AND SHOOT HIM DOWN WITH DUD TRACER BLANKS.



WELL?



BUT THESE AREN'T DUDS—THEY'RE REAL BULLETS!



BILL, I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT SWITCHED—YOU DON'T THINK THAT I—



BUT YOU DID HAVE A QUARREL WITH WILKINS A SHORT TIME AGO—DIDN'T YOU—ABOUT A GIRL?



MURDER—THAT'S ALL—I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

By Hal Forrest

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Cap'n Ike Performs



IT'S ABOUT SHIFTY I WANT TO TALK, CAPN IKE--



SHIFTY? SHIFTY? BLESS ME NOW, WHO'S THAT?



AH, LAD, YOU HAD ME THERE FOR A MINUTE, I'D CLEAN FORGOT THE OLD BOY'S NICKNAME—IT'S MR. PITTS, YOU MEAN, EH? BUT, COME NOW, I AD IT'S A WEE BIT--



--DISRESPECTFUL, AIN'T IT, FOR A FINE, UPSTANDIN' YOUTH LIKE YOURSELF TO REFER TO AN OLD TAR BY HIS NICKNAME? AN' MR. PITTS OUR FIRST MATE, I MIND YOU, LAD, HIM AN' ME WAS BOYS TOGETHER, OTHERWISE YOU'D NOT FIND CAPN' IKE BEIN' SO FAMILIAR WITH HIM--



I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE DISRESPECTFUL, BUT I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY MR. PITTS IS TALKING ABOUT FLOWERS AND FUNERALS AT ANCHOR ISLAND?



WHAT!!

By Edwin Alger

THE NEBBS—Surrender



WHAT'S THE MATTER? I THOUGHT WE WERE BUSY HERE—IF YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE SOCIAL DUTIES WHY NOT DISBEL THEM ON YOUR OWN TIME? ORDERS IN BUSINESS ARE LIKE ORDERS IN THE ARMY—THEY SHOULD BE FILLED!



NOXAGE WATER BOTTLING AND SHIPPING DEPT.



WE'VE GOT A WORLD OF ORDERS BUT NO BOTTLES, NO BOXES—WE'VE GOT A LOT OF STATIONERY BUT YOU CAUT SHIP WATER IN ENVELOPES



YOU'VE GOT A BRIGHT SON—AND REMEMBER, I AIN'T SAYIN' HE AIN'T—BUT YOU'D THINK BEFORE A FELLER ASKED PEOPLE TO BUY WATER, HE'D HAVE SOMETHIN' TO SHIP IT IN—I AIN'T CRITICIZING—MAYBE HE'S BIG ENOUGH TO DRAW IT UP INTO CLOUDS AND DELIVER IT BY RAIN.



THAT WOULD KEEP ANYONE AWAKE BUT WHO WANTS TO STAY AWAKE AN' LISTEN TO THAT?

By Sol Hess

BRINGING UP FATHER



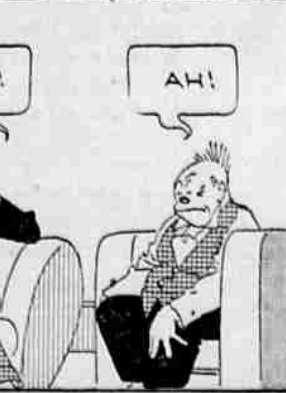
I'VE INVITED PERCY VERANCE TO SIT AND CHAT WITH YOU SO YOU WON'T FALL OFF TO SLEEP—HE'LL TALK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.



I'LL LISTEN TO ANYTHING IF IT WILL KEEP ME AWAKE



AH—MR. JIGGS! THERE YOU ARE—



I THINK SO BUT I'M NOT SURE.



OH—HO!



AH!

By George McManus

BLAST MONUMENT TO FIRST CITIZEN

POLLANSBEE, W. Va., May 31.—(AP)—This Ohio river town chose Memorial day to honor one of its first citizens, but a charge of dynamite spoiled it all. A monument to the late L. A. Diller, former mayor and outstanding citizen, was to have been dedicated in a special morning ceremony. Just before dawn an explosion rocked the town and broke dozens of windows. Officers ran to the scene and found the monument blown to bits. They said they had no clues to the bombers and knew of no reason why anyone should have wished to wreck the monument.

WAR DANCE TO MARK START OF AIR MAIL

PORTLAND, May 31.—(AP)—United Air Lines has completed plans here today for inauguration of the first air mail service into Pendleton and for participation in the dedication Saturday of Pendleton's new \$100,000 airport. A special plane carrying Mayor Jack Allen of Pendleton and Mayor Joseph K. Carson of Portland will arrive at Pendleton from Portland at 11 a. m. Saturday. An Indian war dance will be held in the hangars, and later the airport itself will be dedicated by the breaking of a bottle of champagne on the cornerstone of the administration building.