

MURDER AT MOCKING HOUSE

BY WALTER C. BROWN

SYNOPSIS: The gun that killed one of the two men found murdered in Pierre Dufresne's house is still about the place, although Sergeant Harper has not been able to find it. He has found a set piece of string, however, which seems to have a connection with the mystery. Now he has located the customer who sold a disguise to one of the murdered men, so that he might resemble Dufresne.

As I understand it, you and Mr. Whitmore were left in sole charge of this house while Mr. and Mrs. Dufresne went to their summer home at Moose Head Lodge?

"Yes, sir."
"The Dufresnes left early in July and did not return until late October?"

"That's right."
"During all the time of their absence, there were no disturbances, no attempted burglaries, no prowlers at night, nor suspicious characters seen in the grounds?"

"No."
"Did you have any visitors of your own, relatives, or friends?"

"We did not."
"The house was never left unoccupied, then, even for a day?"

"Never." The housekeeper was rapping out her staccato replies as quickly as the detective fired his questions.

"Which rooms did you occupy?"
"Our usual ones—the double bedroom on the third floor, front."

"Oh, I thought your quarters were over the garage?"
"Those are only temporary."

HARPER struck off on a new line. "Did you know Officer Hamill, the policeman who was killed?"

"Only by sight. I remember seeing him about the neighborhood. I didn't know his name."

"Did he ever stop to talk?"
"John, my husband, talked to him several times over the fence in the evenings. He never came into the grounds, that I saw."

"How did you know when the house was to be opened again?"
"Mr. Dufresne sent me a telegram the day they started home. All the preparation needed was to replenish the food supply and notify the maid."

"Oh, there was a maid? What became of her?"
"She left."

"Discharged?"
"No, she left of her own accord."

"What reason did she give? Had she been with the Dufresnes long?"
"About a year and a half. I didn't ask her reasons for leaving. She gave Mrs. Dufresne the usual two weeks' notice. Mrs. Whitmore's tone made it plain that she had not been overly friendly with the maid."

"What was her name?"
"Ellen Becker."

"Do you have her present address?"
"I do not. I believe she has relatives somewhere in the city, but I'm not sure. Mrs. Dufresne would know."

"Surely you have some idea as to why she left, Mrs. Whitmore? It seems very unusual that she should wait all summer to resume her duties here in the fall and then leave after a few weeks. Surely she had some explanation to make?"

"Ellen was always close-mouthed and stand-offish. The housekeeper replied. 'She never made friends with any one.'"

"Why wasn't she replaced?"
"By that time the re-decorating had been decided upon and started. Mr. and Mrs. Dufresne went to the Auferlitz. There was no need for a maid until the house was opened again."

"I understand Mrs. Dufresne directed the changes. I suppose she was here a great deal while the work was going on?"

"Oh, yes, she was in and out all the time, consulting about this and that. But Mrs. Croymden helped a lot with it, too."

"Did Mr. Dufresne come out often?"
"Perhaps twice a week, to see how things were going. He left all the decisions to Mrs. Dufresne, though."

"Well, that gives me a pretty clear idea of how things stood over the summer but I need a few more details about this re-decorating. It seems to have been a thorough undertaking. Was the whole thing handled by one firm or were the various jobs given out to different firms?"

"No, Johnson & Carey handled everything, the painting, papering, upholstery, even the outside painting."

"Then the only workmen who were in this house were in their employ?"

"Yes. There was quite a lot of them, working at various times. Perhaps a dozen altogether."

"They were under supervision all the time?"
"Yes, indeed. A Mr. Holliday had charge of the whole job. He was up here every day."

"What were the working hours?"
"From half-past eight to four o'clock."

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Tomorrow, Harper gives Mrs. Whitmore some startling information.

O. S. C. GRADUATES INDUSTRIAL SHOW RECEIVE DEGREES JUBILEE FEATURE

CORVALLIS, Ore., June 5.—(AP)—Nearly four hundred students of Oregon State college were awarded degrees, and four honorary degrees conferred at the 65th annual commencement exercises at the college reached their climax.

At the baccalaureate services yesterday Dr. Titus Lowe of Portland, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, made an appeal for individual and progressive thinking by American youth.

David A. Wright of Salem was elected president of the Oregon State College Alumni association at the annual meeting here Saturday.

At the graduating exercises today 398 students were awarded degrees, and senior honors conferred by the administrative council upon members of the class who had maintained the highest scholastic average throughout the year were announced.

DILLINGER HIDING IN HOSPITAL IS BELIEF

BOSTON, June 5.—(AP)—The Boston American today quoted Joseph B. Keenan, assistant United States attorney general, as saying that John Dillinger, notorious mid-western outlaw, is in hiding in an Illinois hospital suffering from gunshot wounds. Keenan, a native New Englander, was in Boston to address the Massachusetts Credit Union league and to survey the affairs of the closed Federal National bank.

It has been ruled illegal to ship slot machines into New York state.



SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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'MATTER POP—



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TAILSPIN TOMMY—Who Is Guilty?



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BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Shifty's Shiner



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THE NEBBS—Get Another Boy



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BRINGING UP FATHER



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MRS. WHITMORE took at least ten minutes to make her appearance. The detective wondered what the servants were saying about the murders, for he knew that in the seclusion of their own quarters every tongue would be wagging unrestrainedly. A great deal of the talk would be mere idle gossip and conjecture, but mixed with this must necessarily be many items of first-hand knowledge that would be invaluable to him, could he hear them.

When Mrs. Whitmore did make her appearance, her attitude and the expression of her face left no doubt as to her personal stand. The belittling gleam in her eyes, the twist of her tightly shut lips promised little aid and no sustenance for the police processes.

"Mrs. Whitmore, I have some questions to ask. As all of you now know, there was a double murder here last night. To withhold information of any kind is a serious matter. In a case like this it can mean—prison. I want you and all the others to understand that clearly."

Harper paused, feeling that this prologue was wasted on the determined woman. Mrs. Whitmore nodded curtly. "I understand that, but I didn't have anything to do with it and I don't know anything about it," she answered haughtily.

"Of course not. Don't misunderstand my purpose in sending for you. Let us start a little way back.

DROUGHT BROKEN, EFFECTS REMAIN

(By the Associated Press)

The parched middle-west cooled off today under June showers, but the effects of May's unparalleled aridity remained.

While week-end rains brought the mercury well below the century mark in sections where it soared to record heights last week, government officials met in Washington at the call of President Roosevelt to consider various proposals for alleviating the distress of farmers and stockmen in the devastated areas.

The weather men aided with a promise of continuation of cooler weather and rains.

KLAMATH ARMORY FUNDS APPROVED

PORTLAND, Ore., June 5.—(UP)—The federal PWA in Washington, D. C., has approved the \$45,000 bond issue for the Klamath Falls armory. C. C. Hockley, public works engineer for Oregon, notified R. E. Bradbury, in charge of negotiations for the loan for the city of Klamath Falls, to that effect today.

Legal objections threatened for a time to prevent the loan's approval. Bradbury made first application for the loan in September of 1933, through the Portland PWA office.

Children's "bean bags" may be filled with corn in Quincy, Mass., playgrounds, because it is cheaper.