

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

SYNOPSIS: Jerry Mordant and Nicholas French are at the former's flat. With Molly O'Brien, the two young men are engaged in trying to recover a valuable fur coat, stolen by the murdered John Osborne from Molly after the death of her father. Similar persons also are trying to find the fur coat, and most of them believe Nicholas has it, since he has been accused of the murder of Osborne, although later he is acquitted. Jerry just has joined Nick.

Chapter 19 SIR WILLIAM AVON

"SORRY to have been so long," said Jerry. "I don't know why, but I was a bit sleepy this morning."

"If you will insist on dragging us to expensive night clubs and dancing till three o'clock..." I began.

"Was it as late as that?" he dropped into an easy chair and ran his fingers through George's silky coat. "Still, we didn't have a bad time, did we? I think Molly enjoyed herself all right."

"I'm sure she did," I said. "A simple nature like hers..."

"Simple nature be blowed! I tell you, Nick, that girl's a wonder. She's not only pretty, but she's got brains and guts, too."

"According to the best scientific authorities," I observed, "most young women have..."

UNIFORM BERRY BOX LAW HELD VALID BY U. S. COURT DECISION

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The validity of the Oregon law requiring use of uniform berry boxes was upheld in federal court here today in a decision handed down in the action brought by the Pacific States Box and Basket company attacking the statute.

The company had sued for an injunction to prevent enforcement of the law which requires use of uniform berry hampers. The company had alleged that the state law interfered with normal course of interstate commerce. The court ruled that the constitutional rights of the box company had not been invaded.

"Legislation designed to aid and promote the industry in the manner provided by the Oregon laws," the decision read, "falls within the legitimate use of the police power of the state. Whether the state department of agriculture acted wisely in making selections, or whether the containers manufactured by the plaintiff are as well or better adapted to the intended use does not present a subject for judicial review."

FLIER'S WIFE CHARTERS SCHOONER FOR SEARCH

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 18.—(AP)—Refusing to abandon hope for her husband, missing for two weeks on a trans-Pacific flight, Mrs. Charles T. P. Ulm chartered the schooner Lanskai today through the British con-

4 AUTO DEATHS OVER WEEK-END

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Four persons lost their lives in automobile accidents in Oregon over the week-end, several others were critically injured, and a dozen or more were less seriously hurt.

The dead: Charles W. Mead, 37, of Portland.

Emory H. Fuller, 32, of Oregon City. Gus Holgate, 40, of Cottage Grove. Mrs. W. H. Powell, 50, of Yamhill.

Mead was struck down in Portland by an automobile reportedly driven by Francis J. McDonald of Bonneville who was booked for involuntary manslaughter. Fuller was killed when his car skidded on the Columbia highway near The Dalles. Holgate's automobile collided with a truck on the Row river road near Dorena. Mrs. Powell died in a hospital here from injuries suffered near Condon.

28 TERRORISTS SHOT ON SOVIET ORDERS

MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Twenty-eight alleged terrorists under death sentences were duly executed today in Kiev, bringing to a total of 107 the number of alleged terrorists executed since the assassination of Sergei Kiroff, December 1.

PAY BOOST COMING FOR RAIL WORKERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Railroad union workers who in 1932 took a \$60,000,000-a-year wage cut will receive an increase in wages January 1, restoring their pay to within 5 per cent of the basic-pre-depression scale.

PENDLETON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Approximately 1,500 wheat allotment checks amounting to \$340,856 were being distributed this week to Umatilla county wheat ranchers who have complied with the government's requirement of acreage reduction. An equal amount will be distributed later.

Gross returns from Florida's 1933-34 fruit and vegetable crops were \$83,497,164.

DEATH TO SAWTELLE, NINTH CIRCUIT JUDGE

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Judge William H. Sawtelle, formerly of Tucson, Ariz., one of the three members of the ninth circuit United States court of appeals, died suddenly at his home here Monday. He was appointed Feb. 5, 1931, by former President Hoover.

THE CHRISTMAS RUSH

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

SMATTER POP—

By C. M. Payne

TAILSPIN TOMMY—

Treason Traced to the Gastameto Plantation

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—

Samson Walloper



With a sudden smile Sir William stepped forward.

"Look at the way she bluffed those two things in your studio," he went on with growing enthusiasm. "Mastery bit of work I call it! And the jolliest thing about her is that she's so easy to talk to. We got along together like a house on fire."

"What were you discussing?" I inquired.

"You, chiefly."

"It's a fascinating topic," I admitted.

"She's worried about you, Nick. Got it into her head that she's no right to lead you into any more trouble."

"Oh, that's bunkum," I objected. "What I want to find out is who killed Osborne. Until I do, every fool in England will go on believing that I'm a murderer!"

"That's what I pointed out to her. I explained that we were both acting from entirely selfish motives. You wished to clear your name and I was thirsting to try my hand as a sleuth. If we were able to help her at the same time so much the better."

"Well done, Jerry," I said. "I'd no idea you were such a diplomat."

"You're on the brink of a dog fight if you don't look out," I remarked, and leaving him to deal with the situation I sauntered on to the pavement and crossed the road in the direction of a paley House.

A few minutes' walk brought me to the Park View Hotel—the most select and expensive of all London's recently erected beauty spots. My host had evidently left instructions at the office, for, on my mentioning his name, the reception clerk at once summoned a page, and without further preliminaries, I was promptly conducted to the lift.

We stopped at the second landing, where, leading the way down a softly carpeted corridor, the boy knocked gently at a closed door. It was opened by a manservant.

"Yes, sir," he murmured in response to my inquiry, "Sir William Avon is expecting you, sir."

He relieved me of my hat, and conducting me across a miniature hall ushered me into a large oval-shaped room, the windows of which looked out on to the Park.

Standing with his back to the fireplace was a man whom I should have recognized at once. His massive shoulders, his square chin, and the lock of white hair falling across his forehead were all familiar to me from his photographs in the newspapers. Though he must have been at least seventy he was as upright as a dart, and his eyes, which were a curious shade of frosty blue, were about the hardest and keenest that I have ever encountered.

They rested on me for a moment in a quick appraising glance; then, with a sudden smile, he stepped forward.

"I am glad to make your acquaintance, Mr. Trench," he said.

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Nick learns some astonishing things from Sir William, tomorrow.

THE NEBBS—

Foxy Fanny

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George Horne

DISTILLING PLANT IS INCORPORATED

VALE, Ore., Dec. 18.—(AP)—Oregon drinkers soon will have an opportunity to use a "home grown" product. Plans for the construction of a distilling plant near Wesen, on the Oregon side of the Snake river, are carried out, it was said here yesterday.

Articles of incorporation for the Snake River Distilling company, with a capital of \$25,000, already have been filed in the county clerk's office here, it was said, and machinery for distilling rye and corn whiskies and apple brandy has been ordered. It was estimated that hundreds of tons of apples and prunes raised in the Snake river valley will be used by the distillery in making brandy.

HOUSING PROGRAM HELPING LUMBER

SEATTLE, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The federal housing administration is stimulating new business amounting to \$20,600,000 each week over the country, Ward M. Canada, director of public relations for the administration said today.

He declared the lumber business in the Pacific northwest has felt the improvement citing that one eastern refrigerator manufacturer ordered 17,500,000 feet of shipping crate material this month.

"The whole idea behind the housing program is to get money moving," he said.

See Mail Tribune next ada.