

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

SYNOPSIS: French Molly Osborne are trying to get a formula worth millions which has been stolen from Molly by John Osborne. Osborne has been murdered and Nick has been acquitted of that deed. But various sinister interests believe Nick has the formula, nevertheless, and these threaten the lives of the three allies. Nick has gone to have lunch with Sir William Trench, the famous chemical engineer.

Chapter 30

SIR WILLIAM'S STORY

"I THINK we may as well have lunch straight away," Sir William continued. "Personally I prefer a glass of sherry, but perhaps I am a trifle old-fashioned."

"As far as sherry's concerned," I replied, "I suffer from the same misfortune."

"Come along then." He shepherded me through a second door into the adjoining room, where a small round table was already laid for two. In the center was a silver bowl filled with fragrant red roses, while on a handsome Jacobean sideboard stood an encouraging array of bottles and decanters.

I began to feel that notwithstanding his somewhat masterful appearance Sir William and I would get along together excellently.

He talked away pleasantly enough while we were being helped to grouse and French salad, but it was not until the manservant had left us that he made any approach to the subject of his letter. Then, putting down the glass of claret which he had been sipping, he stared at me across the roses.

"Do you know why I have asked you here?" he inquired bluntly. "I can only think of two reasons. I replied, 'One is that you are interested in murder trials, and the other...'"

"Well?" "The other is that you are interested in something else."

"I wonder," he said slowly, "if you will be offended at my speaking plainly."

"Not in the least," I assured him. "When I wrote you that letter, I had just finished reading a verbatim report of your trial. It had left me in some doubt, but on the whole I was inclined to think that you were guilty. Since meeting you, however, I have changed my opinion. I always trust my own judgment of men, and I am convinced now that the jury were right."

"I had nothing to do with Osborne's death," I said, "nothing whatever."

"So I believe, and I apologize for my mistake."

I laughed a trifle mirthlessly. "There's no necessity for that. Quite a number of distinguished people seem to have come to the same conclusion."

"Now in your own mind," he went on, "apart from anything that was brought out at the trial, have you the least suspicion why Osborne was murdered?"

I looked him squarely in the face. "Yes," I said. "While he was in America he got hold of a very valuable invention. No doubt several people know about it, and I imagine that one of them bumped him off in order to steal the secret."

"His expression remained quite unaltered. 'There was no suggestion of this in your defence.' 'I had no evidence,' I explained. 'Since then one or two things have happened which have helped to open my eyes.' 'I should be extremely interested to hear what they are.' 'And I should be extremely interested,' I returned, 'to hear how they concern you.' 'Well, that seems a very legitimate curiosity.' He fingered his wine glass thoughtfully. 'Suppose we make a bargain, Mr. Trench. I am perfectly willing to lay my cards on the table provided you will be equally candid with me. For different reasons we are both anxious to get to the bottom of this mystery. As it happens I can supply a good deal of information about Osborne, but there are certain gaps in my knowledge which it is quite possible that you may be able to fill in. If you agree with my suggestion I have an idea that you may be of considerable assistance to each other.' I reflected rapidly. I no longer felt any doubt that Sir William had been negotiating for the invention, and that in all probability he was the man whom Molly had seen with Osborne at Aubrey's restaurant."

"In that case he would certainly clear up a number of points on which I was badly in need of enlightenment, but would it be safe, at the present stage of affairs, to take him wholly and unreservedly into my confidence?"

"After all the formula belonged to Molly, not to me, and until I had had a chance of consulting with her... I looked up and saw the shadow of a smile lurking round the corner of his lips. 'You are quite right to be cautious,' he observed. 'At the same time I assure you that my offer is entirely straightforward.' 'I don't really doubt it,' I replied. 'The trouble is that I am not a free agent. What I happen to have found out concerns other people as well as myself. Until I know where you stand in the matter, I'm not sure how much I am entitled to tell you.' He remained silent for a moment. 'Very well,' he said at last. 'If that's the position I am prepared to take the first step. I only make one stipulation. Nothing I say in this room is to be repeated outside.' I contented myself with a nod. 'It was early in June,' he began, 'that I first got in touch with Osborne. He came to my offices in the City. He described himself as an inventor, and he claimed to have discovered a process for manufacturing a metal which, both from an engineering and a commercial point of view, would be an immense improvement upon aluminium. I need hardly say that I am quite used to this type of visitor, and that as a rule they turn out to be either lunatics or frauds.

NEW STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY WILL FIND A WELCOME

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene.—(Sp.)—New students who have not yet entered an institution of higher education, and students who for some reason have not attended during the fall, will not only be welcome at the University of Oregon at the beginning of the winter term January 2, but will find a wide variety of courses in which to register, it was announced here today by Dr. C. V. Boyer, university president.

Work at the university for a long time has been on the quarter system, and although some courses are continuous starting in the fall, students will have no difficulty either starting in the winter or spring or picking up after dropping a term or more. It was pointed out, also, by taking work in summer session or by correspondence or extension, it is easily possible to pick up time lost and graduate with the regular classes. Dr. Boyer states:

"The university, in line with progressive institutions throughout the United States, has arranged courses for the first two years so that the student get a broad background for specialization later, and new classes in practically every field will open at the beginning of the term.

Students will find courses in which they may enter January 2 in English, Germanic languages, Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, business administration, education, home economics, physical education, biological and physical science, botany, zoology, journalism, law, military science, mathematics, physics, social science, economics, geography, history, philosophy, psychology, religion and sociology.

Some opportunities for students to obtain employment to aid them in financing their education will also open at the beginning of the winter term, it is stated. Some of the more than 200 students obtaining work under the FERA grant from the federal government will complete their courses, while others will be ineligible due to scholarship requirements or other causes. These vacancies will be assigned to students deemed most worthy, and applications may be made now to Miss Janet Smith, employment secretary.

Lost Grid Game and Dog. PHILADELPHIA.—(UP)—Shorty after losing the football game to the Columbia Lions, the University of Pennsylvania football team lost its little dash-and-dodge mascot. The animal, named Mane, escaped from his owner, William Bishop, and was killed by an automobile.

Need to Get Oregon Apples. PORTLAND, Ore.—(UP)—Forty-five carloads of Oregon apples for distribution to thousands of needy families on relief rolls throughout the United States will be shipped to various parts of the country by the Federal Relief Administration, it was announced here today.

Wrigley's Spearmint Gum. The Flavor Lasts

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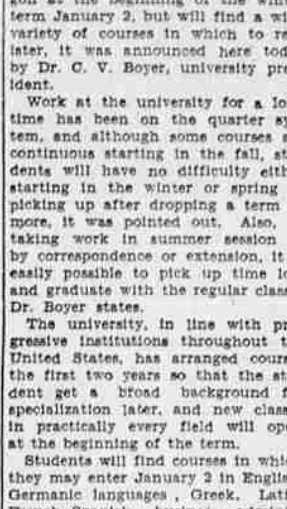
BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Mr. Chirp Speaks Out

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BRINGING UP FATHER—

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



THE UNEASY DOUBT THAT ASSAILS YOU WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WRAPPING YOUR PRESENTS, THAT THERE IS ONE PRICE MARK YOU FAILED TO TAKE OFF

12-19

By C. M. Payne

ARCHIE, MY BOY, YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES! AND WILLIE, TOO— BUT YON LAD, WHO IS HE? IS HE A MEMBER OF OUR NOBLE PROFESSION?

GAMSON WALLOWER, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT THAT BOY BEN WEBSTER, IS THE BRIGHTEST BEAM OF LIGHTS THAT EVER ENTERED A DARK AND GORROWFUL LIFE—

HE'S THE GENERAL MANAGER OF OUR OUTFIT— I AIN'T HAD A THING BUT GOOD LUCK SINCE I HOOKED UP WITH HIM— FIRST WILLIE JOIN US, AND NOW YOU—

HAS THE LAD, PERCHANCE, GOT MONEY?

MONEY, FIDDLESTICKS! HE'S GOT BRAINS, AN' HE'S GOT COURAGE—WHAT ELSE DOES A BODY NEED IN THIS WORLD?

GOOD MORNING, YOU MUST BE FEELING BETTER— YOU LOOK WONDERFUL.

NO, I'M REAHL'Y NOT FEELING A BIT GOOD— I'M AFRAID I'M EXCITING MYSELF TOO MUCH.

THAT'S TOO BAD— I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK YOU TO JOIN US IN A DINNER PARTY WEDNESDAY NIGHT— BUT I KNOW IT'S THOUGHTLESS OF ME EVEN, TO SUGGEST IT.

NO, I CAWN'T— I JUST MUST REST— YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T COME DOWN HERE IF I WAS LOOKING FOR SOCIETY— MY SOCIAL DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS HAVE JUST WORN ME OUT.

WE'VE GOT TO GET UP A BIG DINNER PARTY FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT— I TOLD THE SOCIETY QUEEN WE WERE HAVING ONE!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME FINANCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY TRYING TO RUB IT INTO THAT OLD GAL— COULDN'T YOU FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE HER DISCONTENTED WITHOUT USING ME FOR BAIT?

FAITHS FELLOWSHIP SECOND GATHERING PLANNED IN LONDON

LONDON.—(UP)—A second international congress of the World Fellowship of Faiths, to continue the work initiated by the first congress in the United States last year, will meet in London in June, 1936, it was announced.

Bi-racial leaders of all religions and faiths from America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australasia, will be invited, to deepen the sense of fellowship between them and to create a better understanding of each other's point of view.

Herbert Hoover and Miss Jane Adams were presidents of the first congress. The Maharaja Gaskar of Baroda is international president.

Bishop Francis J. McConnell is the American national chairman, Habel Stephen S. Wise, Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, Col. Patrick Callahan, and Prof. E. B. A. Seligman are American national vice chairmen.

The congress will debate "what should be the Supreme Ideal at which mankind should aim, and how the world can attain to that inner peace and contentment of soul which is of so much more importance than peace conceived of as mere absence of war."

The delegates will also be asked to suggest "a solution of one main world problem—Freedom, as endangered by hyper-nationalism, racial prejudice, religious intolerance and class domination."

Light Burned 28 Years. PORT WORTH, Tex.—(UP)—An electric light bulb has burned continuously for 28 years in the hallway between the stage and dressing-rooms at the Palace theater here. The bulb has never been turned off and the only time it ceased to shine was when the city power was turned off.

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KILTIE BAND PARADES HERE FRIDAY EVENING

The Ashland American Legion Kiltie band will parade in Medford Friday evening at 7 o'clock as a special feature of the showing that night at the Oriental Gardens of the old stage "meller drammer," Ten Nights in a Barroom. The band will be paraded in their new uniforms recently received from Scotland.

According to Chairman Morris Leonard of the American Legion committee in charge of the show, those attending are invited to wear costumes dating back to the nineties, if they so desire.

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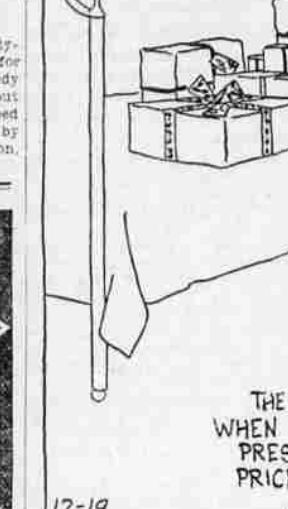
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