

# I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

**SYNOPSIS:** Nicholas Treach and Sir William Avon have exchanged information concerning the missing formula for the dead and occulted. With Jerry Jordant, Molly and Nick are determined to find the formula. Sir William is willing to help.

## Chapter 13 SINISTER VOICE

I SAT back and regarded Sir William with interest. For a baronet and a highly respected leader of British industry, Sir William was certainly a curious mixture.

"Well, we know where we are now, anyhow," I remarked. "Perhaps you're right in what you propose, but I take it that in the meantime you've no objection to our making a few investigations on our own account."

"You must please yourselves. If you are prepared to run the risk and if you think you have the smallest chance of success, go ahead by all means. Have you any definite ideas as to where you propose to start?"

There was a faint suggestion of irony in his voice which gave me the impression that he attached very little importance to our projected efforts.

"To think it over, I am not sure that it wouldn't be the wiser plan. You will impress upon them, of course, the necessity for absolute discretion."

"They'll keep their mouths shut all right," I assured him. "I didn't realize it was as late as that." He rose to his feet. "I have to attend a meeting in the City at half-past so I am afraid I must be making a start. If you're coming in the same direction perhaps I can give you a lift."

"I've arranged to meet my friends at the Milan," I said. "If you could drop me there..."

"Why, of course. We pass the door."

PRESSING the electric bell, he led the way through the sitting room to the outer hall, where the man-servant was waiting to present us with our hats. Preceding us along the corridor, the same polite functionary then rang for the elevator—an additional attention to which I presume, a millionaire employer is automatically entitled.

I must confess that, as I stepped

## PORTLAND HOTELS TO SEEK PERMITS FOR DRINK SALES

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The discovery that the "Hotel" hotels are little concerned whether or not they are eventually permitted to sell liquor by the drink, has led Portland innkeepers to the conclusion that if the Knox law is amended to permit by-the-glass sale, they are the ones who must make the presentation to the legislature.

So, next month, a group of Portland hotel men, appearing simply as "business men," will approach the legislature with a proposal.

When the Oregon State hotel association met here recently the Portlanders found they could arouse little interest among the out-of-towners in the liquor-by-the-drink question. The executive committee of the association, however, adopted a resolution setting forth the position of the organization.

This resolution commended the liquor commission for its work and then mentioned that "a large part of the public which desires alcoholic beverages in less than bottle quantities creates a public demand which, under present law, can only be supplied by illicit traffic; hence the numerous speakeasies that honeycomb our metropolitan centers in utter disregard of law."

"The result," the statement continued, "is lawlessness, disregard of law, loss of revenue for the state and destruction of legitimate business."

## COUNTY CLERKS FOR NUMEROUS CHANGES IN ELECTION RULES

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—(AP)—E. B. Casteo of Umatilla county was elected president of the Association of County Clerks and Recorders of Oregon, at the conclusion of their 22nd annual convention here Wednesday.

R. M. Russell of Linn was named vice-president, and Miss K. Short of Klamath, secretary-treasurer.

The group recommended changing the date of the regular primary election from May to September; elimination of the law permitting independent candidates to be named by an assembly of 100 voters; statute requiring independents to pay same fee as other candidates; dropping voter from list only after he has failed to vote for four years in a general election; instead of failure to vote during two-year period.

F. L. Philippe, Wasco county judge, was re-elected president of the county judges and commissioners association Wednesday night. Judge D. O. Woodworth of Linn was re-elected vice-president, and Commissioner W. A. Allan of Yamhill was elected secretary-treasurer, succeeding Commissioner J. E. Smith of Marion.

## SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn.—(UP)—When Milligan and Teachers' college played a football game here Thanksgiving Day, and invited all previous lettermen to be guests at the field, Leslie T. Hart, editor of the Johnson City Chronicle and Staff News, solved a problem by attending and wearing the letters of BOTH schools, from each of which he had won them.

Every tuberculosis Christmas sale is a recovery campaign.



I dropped onto the luxuriously cushioned seat.

"The first thing I want to do," I said, "is to see the place where Osborne worked. I should like to have a chat with those people who looked after him. If he talked to them at all it's quite possible they might be able to give us some useful information."

He shook his head. "I am afraid there's nothing to be learned there. My secretary, who certainly isn't lacking in intelligence, has visited the farm and questioned them closely. I need hardly add that we have also searched the factory from top to bottom."

"I fully expected it," I said. "All the same, just for my own personal satisfaction, I should prefer to have a prow around myself."

HE smiled tolerantly. "There will be no difficulty about arranging that. I can give you a note to the farmer and his wife—Gowland their name is—and I will also send you the keys, which you can return to me when you have finished with them. We have to keep everything locked up because, as a matter of fact, there are still one or two cases of high explosives down in the cellars."

"What's the name of the place?" I inquired: "and how does one get to it?"

"It's called Hambridge Ferry. The easiest way is to go to Eastminster. Anyone will direct you from there."

## S'MATTER POP—



## TAILSPIN TOMMY—A Timely Interruption!



## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Council of War



## THE NEBBS—Hail to the Prince



## BRINGING UP FATHER



## POLICE DOGS BEST GUARDS AT PRISON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Sanford Bates, keeper of the nation's public enemies—Al Capone and the rest—said today dogs are better prison guards than men.

## INSURANCE FRAUD GROUP INDICTED

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Dec. 20.—(UP)—The federal grand jury for eastern Oklahoma indicted 11 men today in mail fraud charges filed after investigation of a scheme in which the Modern Woodmen of America was implicated for \$530,000.

By C M Payne

By Hal Forrest

By EDWIN ALGER

By Sot Hess

By George McManus