

# I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

**SYNOPSIS:** Nicholas French has learned a good deal about the mysterious disappearance of a valuable formula belonging to Molly Wilson, from Sir William Aston. With Jerry Mardout and Molly, plans to visit a deserted factory where John Osborne, who first stole the formula, manufactured a piece of the metal it describes. The metal is a little cutter. While they are discussing the matter Jerry catches sight of a waiter lurking about the door, and accuses him of spying.

## Chapter 25 JIMMY FOX

"Why should I answer your questions?" the waiter demanded. "I have done nothing wrong. It is you who have struck and assaulted me. If you do not let me go at once, I shall speak to the manager." "You'll speak to the manager, all right," said Jerry. "I'll see to that." He pointed to the door. "Get out," he rasped. "Get out quick, before I break your neck!"

For a rash instant Kilner seemed inclined to continue the discussion. His lips opened, and then, just as he was about to speak, something in Jerry's face apparently checked the impulse, and with a furtive glance at all three of us, he sidled hastily from the room.

"Right you are," said Jerry. "You get ahead with it. Molly and I will go back to the flat, and you can join us there. Then we'll take George for a walk and have tea in the Park." "I don't think I shall ever want to eat again," protested Molly. "You gave me such a huge lunch." "You must have tea," said Jerry firmly. "I've booked a table at Ciro's tonight, and one can't dance on an empty tummy."

We waited for a minute and while Molly powdered her nose and put on a hat, and then, making our way to the end of the corridor, walked down the broad deserted staircase. As we arrived at the bottom I saw Jimmy on the opposite side of the lounge. I gave him an encouraging nod, and leaving the others to make their exit, walked over to an untenanted corner.

HE HAD evidently thought out his preparations, for, disappearing promptly through an adjoining doorway, he emerged a moment later carrying a neatly tied brown paper parcel. "These are them, sir," he whispered, coming across to where I was waiting. "They ain't up to much—just a few bits I done at odd times. It won't be 'at' kind if you'll 'ave a look through them."

# TURKEY AND PEAR SHIPMENTS HEAVY

Christmas turkey shipments from the Rogue River and Umpqua valleys, up to last Friday, totaled 356,000 pounds, according to C. C. Graves, outside agent of the Railway Express Agency, with headquarters in this city.

Shipments of Christmas pear boxes, which last year's shipments, according to Graves, amounted to 1,000,000 boxes, were also heavy last year. Most of the local packers had Christmas boxes, and enjoyed good trade in them. Sources of them were sent by local people to eastern and mid-western friends.

Sixteen cars of turkeys made up the shipments from southern Oregon to California points. Eight cars were sent from this city, two from Grants Pass and six from Douglas county. Graves also reports that the express business at Christmas time was double last year. The express office will be kept open Christmas day, for the benefit of the public.

# UNIONS UPHELD IN L. A. SQUABBLE

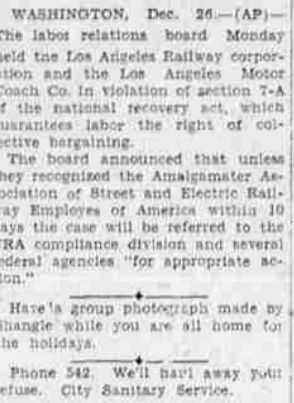
WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—(AP)—The labor relations board Monday held the Los Angeles Railway corporation and the Los Angeles Motor Coach Co. in violation of section 7-A of the national recovery act, which guarantees labor the right of collective bargaining.

The board announced that unless they recognized the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America within 10 days the case will be referred to the N.R.A. compliance division and several federal agencies "for appropriate action."

Secretary Ernest Scott of Medford Lodge, B. P. O. Elks, received a letter today from Peter DeLina, manager of Thomas Lee Artists Bureau, buying representative for the Don Lee

# THE DAY AFTER

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



HOW ONE MAN WORKED OUT THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO FIND A PLACE TO SIT DOWN AND READ ON THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

12-26 (Copyright, 1934, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

# ELKS' ORCHESTRA HIGHLY PRAISED

Secretary Ernest Scott of Medford Lodge, B. P. O. Elks, received a letter today from Peter DeLina, manager of Thomas Lee Artists Bureau, buying representative for the Don Lee

## WRIGLEY'S SPEARMINT GUM

The Flavor Lasts



"Get out before I break your neck!" said Jerry.

I strolled after him and locked the door. "Quite an exciting little episode!" I observed as I came back. "Just shows how careful one ought to be." Jerry shook his head. "Avon was right," he growled. "We are nuts, and we deserve to be kicked—all the lot of us."

"What do you mean?" asked Molly. "Do you think he's one of Osborne's people?" "Not a doubt of it. An ordinary hotel waiter would never have the nerve to do a thing of that sort." He took a couple of paces towards the window, and then wheeled round. "Some Russian who's probably posing as a refugee. The whole of Europe stinks with them."

"I wish we knew how much he'd overheard," I remarked regretfully. "If he was listening the whole time..." "I don't think he was," broke in Jerry. "I believe he went off for a bit and then sneaked back. Anyhow, I saw the door move; that's what attracted my attention."

"Well, whatever the damage is, it's done now," I pointed out. "Seems to me our best plan is to keep quiet. Molly's going to be here for another couple of days, and if we complain to the manager it will probably get all round the hotel. We don't want to have everybody talking and gossiping about her."

"There's something in that," admitted Jerry. "All the same, I'd like to know who this skunk is, and where they got him from."

"I'll take them home with me," I said, "and I'll let you know what I think about them tomorrow. Look here, Jimmy," I added. "You can keep a quiet tongue in your head, can't you?"

He nodded. "I want you to help me," I went on. "There's a waiter here who calls himself Kilner—Jacob Kilner. A little while ago, when I was upstairs with that lady and gentleman who have just gone out, we found him listening outside the door. As it happens we were talking about something very private. I'm not going to make a fuss, or anything of that sort, but if it's possible I'd like to find out who he is and where they got him from."

His eyes brightened. "I can do that for you, sir," he said eagerly. "Some of the chaps here are sure to know."

"I'll be most grateful if you will Jimmy," I said, "but you must be precious careful how you set to work. I don't want Kilner to guess that I'm making inquiries about him."

"I won't give it away, sir. You can trust me, honest." He hesitated, and then fished. "Why, I'd do anything to help you, sir," he stammered.

The statement was so obviously sincere that a fresh idea suddenly struck me. "Well, there's another way in which you might be useful, Jimmy," I said. "That young lady I was talking about, who is sleeping in Number eighty-six, is a rather particular friend of mine. Her name's Miss O'Brien. Quite by accident she's mixed up with a rotten crowd of foreigners, who are trying to frighten her and cheat her. Now I don't suppose that anyone will interfere with her here, but all the same, these people are an ugly lot, and I'd feel happier if I knew that there was somebody in the hotel who would let me know at once in case anything went wrong. It would only be a question of ringing me up on my phone."

# 8 MATTER POP



# TAILSPIN TOMMY—Signing the Papers!



# BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Ben's Suggestion



# THE NEBBS—The Holiday Spirit



# BRINGING UP FATHER



# LUMBER PRICE CODE HELD UNIMPORTANT

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 26.—(AP)—The suspension of the price-fixing provisions of the NRA lumber code, in the opinion of Col. W. B. Greeley, secretary-manager of the West Coast Lumbermen's association, will not have any upsetting influence upon the market for west coast lumber, a problem of great importance to Washington lumbermen.

# CAVEMEN INITIATE OFFICERS OF CCC

At the annual Christmas party held at Camp Kirby, CCC, at Selma, Ore., Glenn Mitchell, superintendent of Sixteen national forest; Major Clare H. Armstrong, commander of Medford CCC district; Capt. James O. Wansley, Eng.-d-Res. of Camp Lower Platoc River, and Lieut. Chas. H. Van Horne, of Camp Kirby were initiated into the Griza Pass Caversmen.

The ceremony held last Thursday night, was administered by officers of the camp, including Lieut. Preston E. Bohrer, who is a member of the Caversmen. Members of the camp and their families attended the party, at which Christmas candy was presented to everyone, and a Christmas program conducted during the initiatory rites.