

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

SYNOPSIS: Nicholas French just rescued Molly O'Brien from the hide-out of an unscrupulous gang which believes she can tell where a valuable formula belongs to her in hidden. But Molly does not know for the formula has been stolen. Nick, with Jerry Morrison, plans to help her find it. Molly has been taken to Jerry's flat, where she, Nick, and Jimmy Fox, a page boy protégé of Nick's, are to await the return of Jerry himself.

Chapter 31
INTOXICATING MOMENT

I STUMBLED down the hall, and deposited my burden on the bed in Jerry's room. Then I sat down and wiped my forehead.

"I'm sorry I'm so heavy, Nick," Molly smiled up at me faintly. "It must be all the good food I've had lately."

"You lie quite still," I said. "If you feel well enough you can undress later, after you've had some tea." I looked down into her upturned face which was almost as white as the pillow. "How did you get that cut on your cheek?" I asked.

"It was Orloff's ring," she whis-

"Hello," I said stupidly, "back at ready?" I sat up and blinked at him. "What's the time?"

"Just gone ten. Dawson said he looked in about an hour ago and you were well down to it. Thought he'd better let you sleep it out."

I stretched myself, and then glanced at the knuckles of my right hand. They were swollen and painful.

"Dawson's a treasure," I said. "He was splendid last night. I suppose he's told you all about it?"

Jerry shook his head. "I wouldn't go as far as that. He's given me your note and he's informed me that Molly's in my bed and that that pet page-boy of yours is sleeping in the study. Looks to me as if I'd missed something."

By this time I was properly awake. "Sit down and listen, Jerry," I said. "It's a nice little story and I think you'll be thoroughly interested."

He lit a cigaret and perched himself on the end of the bed. "Make it brisk," he suggested. "I haven't had anything to eat yet."

MOVED by his plea, I plunged into a hasty recital of our adventure. One incident, which was quite obviously irrelevant, I omitted altogether but, for the rest, I gave



I stumbled down the hall with my burden.

"I was stupid enough to try and struggle when they were trying to me down."

There was a sound outside, and looking through the doorway, I saw Dawson setting down a tray on the hall table.

"It's quite ready, sir," he announced. "I have brought the whisky as well, in case you would prefer one yourself."

I got up, and making my way to where he was standing, poured out a cup, with which I returned to the bedroom. Molly, who was lying in the same position, opened her eyes as I approached.

"You've got to drink this like a good girl," I said, "and then I'm going to leave you. What you want is a long sleep. It's no use trying to talk things over now; you can tell me all about it tomorrow morning."

"Just as you like, Nick."

I helped her up into a sitting position, and supported her with my arm while she slipped slowly at the tea. When she had finished it she sank back again with a contented sigh.

"That was lovely; I feel much better now."

"You'll be as right as rain in the morning," I said encouragingly. "Jerry will probably be back by the time you're awake, and then we'll have a regular board meeting and decide what's best to be done." I bent down over her. "Good night, Molly dear."

With a sleepy movement she slid her arm round my neck. "Good night, Nick. I haven't half thanked you, but—but I will tomorrow."

Her soft lips met mine, and for an intoxicating moment nothing else in the world seemed to be of the slightest importance. Then somehow or other I managed to regain my sanity.

"Go to sleep at once," I said, a little unsteadily. "If you don't you shan't have any breakfast."

And with that I left her.

I WOKE with a start to find Jerry standing by my bedside. He had apparently drawn up the blind, for the sun was streaming in through the open window, and from outside came the hooting of cars and the shrill whistle of a tug.

CITY OFFICIALS CALLED TO TALK PHONE RATE CUT

SALEM, Jan. 3.—(AP)—City officials of the state from municipalities affected by the recent order of the public utilities commissioner reducing the rates of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company have been called to a meeting here Saturday, January 5.

Commissioner Charles M. Thomas today requested city attorneys, mayors and members of the councils of virtually all municipalities in Oregon to be present to consider the order against which the telephone company had obtained a temporary injunction. The hearing on the injunction will be held in Portland next Monday before Circuit Judge Hall S. Linn.

Thomas' order was issued October 11 reducing rates over the state of the system to become effective November 1. The court order held up the effectiveness of the order pending the hearing. Thomas said his order was issued after two and half years of investigation and is "the most important order of the present utilities commission."

Thomas advised city officials that the present order was not a complete solution to the telephone question, but constituted "only a part of the movement for final solution."

The meeting was called for 10 o'clock at the commissioner's office to consider three points:

"To place the present situation before the municipal public officials of the state, discussing the facts upon which the order was based and presenting a program for the ultimate solution of the telephone question."

"To present reasons why each municipality should cooperate with the state commission in its present litigation."

"To advise the municipalities not only as to their rights, but duties to their own communities on this subject."

BARNES IS AUTHOR ECONOMICS BOOK

Medford has produced another author. The latest resident to burst in print is J. C. Barnes, well known rancher, real estate man and student of taxation and economics. "Good" is the title of the new volume, printed by the S. H. Smith Printing company of this city, but there is nothing "red" inside.

The book is taken up with an interesting discussion of the recent economic collapse in this country, and the proper solution with particular emphasis upon the sales tax with shelter tax exemption plan. Copies of the book will soon be placed on sale at several local stores. Mr. Barnes also plans to present two bills to the state legislature for consideration at the coming session, one providing a homestead tax exemption to the assessed value of \$1500; the other a Homestead exemption fund tax with a 2 percent sales tax to make up the tax reduction. Mr. Barnes is regarded as one of the best posted men on taxation and economic problems in southern Oregon.

CLEAR CREEK CCC HAS YULE FEAST

COC CAMP CLEAR CREEK, Jan. 3.—(Sp.)—As usual, the dinner at Clear Creek camp was the most important event of Christmas. It was held back until 4 p. m., so as to make the men hungrier. Thus they ate more and enjoyed their Christmas celebration with greater zest.

The camp's own orchestra opened the dinner ceremonial by playing "River, Stay 'Way From My Door." The men then started to devour turkey and everything that goes with it. A package of cigarettes was given each man immediately before the meal.

Lieut. Slusser wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and received similar greetings in return.

At 8 p. m. everyone met in the recreation hall for amusement, with Lieut. Slusser as master of ceremonies. A Christmas tree, highly decorated, stood in one corner. It made the scene more impressive with the Christmas spirit.

The fun began when Lieut. Slusser led the camp in "Hall, Hall, the Gang's All Here," accompanied by the orchestra. Some played instruments and sang to show their skill.

The educational adviser gave a speech on the "Oregon Trail." The camp doctor gave a brief address on the meaning of Yuletides. Immediately after, all adjourned to the mess hall, where they indulged in ice cream, candy, nuts, cake and coffee.

A. A. WEAR BETTER CLOTHES. Suits and Overalls to measure—\$21.50 up. Klein the Tailor, Upstairs.

IN AMBUSH

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



S'MATTER POP—



TAILSPIN TOMMY—El Liberator's Dignity Is Upset!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Sleepy Creek



THE NEBBS—It's All Your Fault



DEADLY ALCOHOL SOLD TO ADDICTS

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Deadly wood alcohol was sold today at a coroner's inquest to have constituted from 50 to 95 per cent of the spirits sold by a drug store here to North End addicts, resulting in the deaths of 22 men in an early December tragedy.

Dr. Harold B. Myers, toxicologist, University of Oregon medical school, testified that the 37 bottles recovered from the victims and near-victims contained a deadly amount of methyl (wood) alcohol instead of the denatured alcohol which it was represented to be.

Three criminals are accused of manslaughter and have been bound over to the grand jury in connection with the wholesale deaths. They are Solomon Miller, his son, Spencer, and a clerk, Irving Schwartz. All worked in the same drugstore.

BRINGING UP FATHER



UNION INTERFERENCE ENJOINED BY COURT

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Supreme Court Justice Hurr J. Humphrey today granted to Brooklyn business groups an injunction forbidding labor unions and stevedore companies from barring or interfering with the non-union movement of cargo to piers and steamships.

The ruling held stevedore companies to be common carriers and held that unions' contracts with unions' dues' membership companies for the exclusive use of union trucking were inapplicable.

EL LIBERATOR'S DIGNITY IS UPSET!



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