

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

SYNOPSIS: Nicholas Trent and Jerry Mordant just have been driven from Farmer Gowland's yard, because he heard them question Mrs. Gowland about John Osborne. Osborne had boarded with the Gowlands so his living at Hemlock; it was he who stole a wheelbarrow from Mrs. Mitty O'Brien, who with Jimmy Fox, French, and the "Seagull," Jerry, were the "Seagull." Osborne has been murdered, and the formula has disappeared. Peter Gowley, unscrupulous and cunning, is searching for it also. Molly is searching Gowland's yard.

Chapter 28 NEW SORTIE

"Well, Osborne wasn't the sort to waste a chance like that," Molly continued. "He'd start making love to her right away, and you can take it from me that that's just about what happened. I don't know how her husband found out, but he evidently did."

"I guess it knocked him clean off his balance, and since then he's been walking around half drunk and three parts crazy. Doesn't need much to send a man like that over the edge, and when Nick said he was a friend of Osborne's . . ." she paused.

Jerry looked at her with admiration. "The girl has brains," he remarked. "There's no doubt about it."

"It was Nick's idea in the first place," protested Molly modestly. "I've only worked it out."

"You've worked it out jolly convincingly, anyhow. God, I'm sorry for that wretched woman! She must have been leading a ghastly life."

"We must get hold of her again alone, somehow or other," I said. "If she's Osborne's friend she may have told her quite a lot about himself. I'm certain she knows something or she wouldn't be so deadly scared."

"Gowland and that brute of a dog are enough to scare anyone," objected Jerry. "All the same I'm entirely of your opinion. Another interview with the lady is distinctly indicated, and with the permission of the syndicate I'd like to handle the job myself."

"Well, you can't make a bigger mess of it than I did," I observed a trifle bitterly.

"It wasn't your fault, Nick," Molly put out her hand and squeezed mine comfortingly.

"I'm not blaming the lad," said Jerry. "Still the fact remains that as far as Mrs. G.'s concerns he seems to have torn it pretty badly. If we want to get anything out of her we'll have to approach her from a different angle."

"What angle?"

"Bluff," returned Jerry. "It's my strong suit as a diplomatist. I shall tell her that we've found out all about her relations with Osborne, and that unless she's perfectly frank and answers our questions, we're going to hand on the information to the police. Seems a bit brutal, but that can't be helped."

We sat silent for a moment considering his suggestion.

"It sounds feasible," I admitted; "the chief objection is that after what happened yesterday, I'm not over keen on your going up there by yourself. If his dog's too sick for work that lunatic's quite capable of taking a pot shot at you through the hedge."

Jerry grinned. "I intend to be extremely wary. No one's more passionately fond of a whole skin than I am, and there's not going to be any Charge of the Light Brigade about this business. I mean to hang around until I've seen Gowland safely off the premises. As for Fido, or whatever the brute's name is . . . he slipped his hand into his pocket and pulled out a dainty-looking six chamber revolver."

"Where did you get that?" I demanded.

"Borrowed it from Dawson," was the answer. "He sleeps with it under his pillow in case there's a communist rising."

"When do you propose to take the field?" I inquired.

"As soon as the rain stops. It's been hopeless up to now. No one would go out working on a day like this."

"I believe it's clearing up a little," remarked Molly.

"By Jove, you're right!" Jerry heaved himself from the bunk and, pushing open the skylight, peered out through the crack.

"Wind's shifted a bit west," he announced, "and it's getting lighter all round. I wouldn't be surprised if we were in for a fine evening."

"Well, here's your chance," exclaimed Molly. "If Gowland's been shut up in the house all day he's sure to go out now!"

Nick and Molly walk into a terrible trap, Monday.

CONSUMER GROUP LISTS CRITICISMS OF PRICE FIXING

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—(AP)—A six-point criticism of NRA code price-fixing was presented to the recovery administration today by the consumers division of the national emergency council.

It summarized information received from 150 consumers' councils throughout the country and was presented at NRA's hearing on the entire blue eagle price policy.

The six conclusions drawn from the reports by Donald W. Richberg's counsel which said it had not injected its own analysis, were:

1. In codes providing for price-fixing there are numerous violations, sufficient in many instances to defeat entirely the purpose of the provision.
2. Price fixing is more widespread than specific code provisions authorize.
3. High prices for particular commodities have discouraged consumption or have diverted buyers to an alternative and perhaps inferior method of satisfying wants.
4. The consumer's option of refusal to buy when prices are not right is not an adequate protection and, when exercised, it defeats the purpose of the act to get consumers to buy more goods.
5. Price-fixing does not permit the results of efficient management to be passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices.

NEBRASKA RENEWS BAN ON OREGON, IDAHO HAY

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 11.—(AP)—The alfalfa hay embargo recently lifted by Nebraska against nine Idaho and two Oregon counties today was re-established by Gov. R. I. Cochran.

The order is effective January 20, ten days being allowed for the clearing of shipments already under contract. Hay dealers and growers had asserted the state's crops were menaced by the possible importation of alfalfa weevil from Idaho and Oregon.

The Brooklyn Dodgers will be the first national league club in camp this year. They will report in Orlando, February 25.

T. B. DAIRY STOCK LOSES LICENSE

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 11.—(AP)—The state agricultural department today announced the revocation of the grade A milk license of Henry Andregg, proprietor of the Greater American dairy in Multnomah county, on the grounds that he had not complied with the Oregon statute requiring that herds producing this class of milk shall be free from tuberculosis.

The hearing of the complaint was held in Portland January 7, under direction of J. D. Mickle, head of the state foods and dairies department. Witnesses included Andregg, a number of veterinarians, Dr. Victor Morgia, chief milk inspector for the city of Portland, and Dr. Sam B. Foster, United States department of agriculture representative.

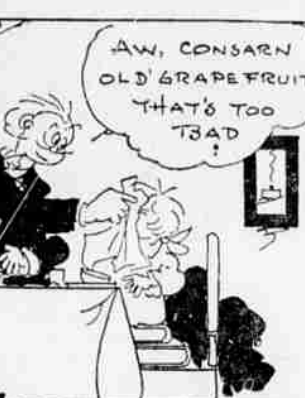
It was indicated that Andregg would appeal the decision to the courts.

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS



FRED PERLEY GOT PRETTY HOT OVER HIS ASH CAN, WHICH, BETWEEN THE TIME HE SET IT OUT IN THE MORNING AND WENT TO TAKE IT IN, VANISHED INTO THIN AIR. BUT HIS DISAPPEARANCE REMAINED A MYSTERY UNTIL THE NEXT THAW REVEALED THE ASH CAN AS FORMING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE SNOW MAN THAT THE PLUMER CHILDREN HAD BUILT NEXT DOOR.

SMATTER POP



TAILSPIN



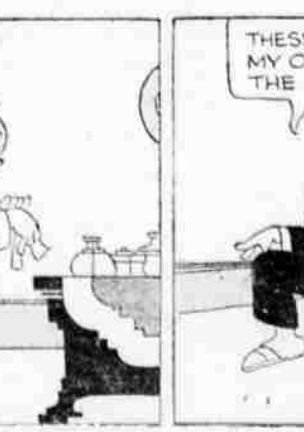
BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER



THE NEBBS



BRINGING UP FATHER



OPENINGS LISTED IN CIVIL SERVICE

Competitive examinations for several civil service positions have been announced by Earl York, secretary of the local board of civil service examiners, from whom full particulars may be obtained.

The first group of positions is as follows:

Designator operator, diesel; assistant inspector, dredging; assistant inspector, general construction; assistant inspector, rivers, harbors, and waterways construction; inspector, general construction (tunnel); inspector, rivers, harbors and waterways construction.

Applications must be on file with the Secretary, Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Engineer Department, 21 Large, Fort Peck, Montana, not later than January 28, 1935.

These examinations are for the purpose of filling existing and future vacancies in the Fort Peck engineer district, with headquarters at Fort Peck, Montana.

Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any place, but will be rated on their experience and fitness.

Other positions offered are:

Elevator conductor, \$1,080 a year, Departmental Service, Washington, D. C. Experience in operation of electric elevators required.

Junior telephone operator, \$1,260 a year, Departmental Service, Washington, D. C. Specified experience required.

The closing date for receipt of applications for these examinations is January 28, 1935.

To furnish that he was thinking of selling his 50 per cent of the Brooklyn Dodgers, President Steve McKeever said, "It is not for sale. It will never be for sale while I live, and I'm feeling very well." 1934

By C. M. Payne

By Hal Forrest

By EDWIN ALGER

By Sol He

By George McMan