

I did not kill Osborne

By VICTOR BRIDGES

Chapter 47
GOOD NEWS

"SOMETHING they wanted to keep out of the newspapers?" I interrupted. "That strikes me as singularly considerate of them, but a little belated."

"You meant," said Mr. Cresswell, "I mean that when I was in the middle of my particularly disgusting mess, nobody, least of all the government, was worried about what got into the news."

"I know how you feel," said Jerry. "Nevertheless, you'll agree that the less re-hashing that's done, the better for everybody. Anyway, they do want to keep this quiet."

"In order to do that it was necessary to obtain our agreement, and since you, as the principal party concerned, were laid up with a cracked shoulder, Mr. Cresswell and I had been invited to represent the three of us."

"Why didn't they ask me?" demanded Molly.

"It was a little awkward," explained Mr. Cresswell soothingly. "Since you are a naturalized American citizen the position was a distinctly delicate one. It was felt that you would have to be approached in a more indirect form."

Molly laughed. "That makes me feel frightfully important. Go ahead, Jerry; I won't interrupt again."

"It seems," continued Jerry cheerfully, "that without exactly meaning to, we've rendered a vastly important service to our King and country. As soon as Mr. Cresswell fired in that statement of ours to the police, the first thing they did was to raid Orloff's fat offices."

"I don't know precisely what they found—Beckham didn't tell us that—but, anyhow, it was quite enough to prove that for the last two years he'd been getting hold of all sorts of valuable information and passing it on to his pals at Moscow."

"I can tell you they aren't half pleased at having him out of the way, especially if it can be fixed up without any fuss or scandal. What seems to have put the crown on the whole business is this blessed formula of Molly's. Beckham says that if the Soviet leaders had once laid their hands on that there'd probably have been another European war."

"HAVE they any objection to our selling it to Avon?" I asked. "Not under certain conditions. They're in touch with him, of course, and I gather that the negotiations are getting along nicely."

"What about the rest of the gang—apart from Orloff?"

"There were only three others down at Hambridge; two of them were sailors off the ship, and the third, our waiter friend, seems to have been a sort of unofficial link between Peter and the Bolsheviks."

"They all got back safely on board, and the skipper pushed off for Russia, next morning. From our people's point of view it's the best way out. The one thing they want to avoid is any sort of publicity."

"And that nasty little reptile Dimitri? Is he going to get off scot free?"

"Not by a long chalk. They've roped him in for coming over here with a dud passport. He'll be had up before a magistrate next week and shipped off quietly to the States. I gather that the New York police will be quite pleased to see him."

"When are they going to do something for Nick?" demanded Molly. "Isn't it about time...?"

"I was coming to that," Jerry's eyes twinkled mischievously. "I suppose you've been too busy talking to each other to have a look at the morning paper?"

He reached out for a folded copy of the Daily Telegraph, which Dawson had brought in to me just before Molly's arrival. "Here you are," he added, opening it. "Pardon this, my children, and be thankful you have a sense of humor."

He dabbed his finger on an editorial at the top of the second column, and leaning over it with our heads close together, Molly and I read as follows:

"The announcement issued by the Home Office last night with regard to what is generally known as the Holland Park murder, is, though something in the nature of a precedent, one which we venture to think will meet the hearty approval of the general public."

"When indisputable evidence as to the responsibility for a crime comes into the hands of the authorities, and the guilty party is no longer within the reach of justice, it is only fair to others whose interests may be deeply concerned that some official statement should be issued to the Press."

"In the present instance we are glad to have the opportunity of offering our most sincere congratulations to that brilliant young sculptor, Mr. Nicholas Trench, whose recent trial and acquittal has provided one of the most sensational cases *célebres* of the last few years."

"It is deplorable that an innocent man should have been compelled to undergo such unmerited suffering, but human wisdom is fallible and the police must not be unduly blamed for acting on what they had reason to regard at the time as reliable evidence."

"We trust that now Mr. Trench has been so completely and dramatically vindicated, he will derive some consolation from the sympathy of his fellow countrymen and their warm admiration for the courage and dignity with which he faced his distressing ordeal. The most happy aspect of this unfortunate affair is that it affords one more proof, if proof were needed, that British justice is still the fairest and most impartial in the world."

"WELL," demanded Jerry with a chuckle. "What do you think of it?"

"Splendid," I said. "I shall have it cut out and framed. It will look very fine hanging up in the studio." I bent over the paper again. "By the way, where is this precious announcement? I haven't seen it yet."

"Oh, it's there—on the front page just a short statement that the authorities are now satisfied that the murderer, and that no one else had anything to do with it."

"Yes, that's all very fine and nice," Molly looked up indignantly. "but..."

"Wait," Jerry said impressively, "the vital part of our message has yet to be delivered." He turned to me. "I have a letter for you here, Nick. Beckham thought it would be a pretty and appropriate touch if I were to hand it to you myself."

He produced a large square official-looking envelope from his pocket and passed it across. "You can read it, too, Molly," he added. "Tearing open the flap I drew out its contents, which consisted of a single sheet of typewritten paper, headed with the address of the Board of Works."

Dear Sir,
I am instructed to inform you that the design submitted by you for the projected Hyde Park Memorial has been definitely selected by the Committee on the terms set out in their original statement. The Committee regret to learn that you are temporarily indisposed. They hope, however, to have the pleasure of meeting you personally and discussing further details as soon as you have sufficiently recovered to arrange an appointment.
Your obedient servant,
HENRY DAVIES,
Secretary.

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Molly gave a little cry and looked up with sparkling eyes. "Isn't that too lovely. I wonder what all the chattering fools who thought you were guilty will have to say now?"

I stared at the letter a trifle doubtfully. "It's a big compliment," I admitted, "but I should feel just a shade more enthusiastic if I were quite sure that I'd won it on my merits. It looks rather like a cheap get-out on the part of the Home Secretary."

Jerry laughed. "You needn't worry about that, old man. Beckham told me that as a matter of fact the Committee had decided to accept your design the very day before you were arrested. They couldn't give it to you then, of course, and the whole question had to be reconsidered. That's why they've been such a terribly long time in making the award. You've no call to be upsh." (Copyright, 1935, Penn Publishing Co.)

Sir William Avon has something to say, tomorrow.

REDEMPTION GOD'S CORRECTIVE PLAN FOR SINFUL MEN

Speaking Sunday morning from the Church of the Nazarene pulpit, Fred M. Weatherford, pastor-evangelist, used as his topic "The Bias of Time's Untried Future." An excerpt of his message is here given.

"There is no truth of God's enunciation that is subject to challenge. The scheme of redemption is God's corrective plan to save and reform sinful men. Hell is God's pay-station or compensation commensurate to the measure of sin in the life of man."

"A curse pronounced upon man as the result of sin in the beginning 'Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return,' or physical death, became a universal blessing, and the certainty of its infliction is one of the most effective disciplinary measures in the government of God. Just as certain as physical death is, so certain is eternal punishment to the disobedient."

"All are ready to admit that law is necessary to civil government. And by the same reasoning, penalty is necessary to law. If all men felt that the penalties of our civil laws would be executed upon them as a result of their violation, crime would cease; but man has a persuasion in his criminal pursuits that he can escape the penalty of law. Many times he is successful, but he shall never be able to escape the all-

seeing eye of the Great Judge for every disobedience of man will be brought into judgment.

"Many apparently sincere people seem to be laboring under the misapprehension that eternal punishment is an infliction of unjust cause; whereas it is merely the completion of the law of cause and effect. Punishment is merely the effect of the cause. In this instance sin is the cause and punishment the effect. You cannot eliminate hell, nor can you call God unjust. God can, and seeks to, eliminate from man the cause, which is sin, and thus remove the effect, which is eternal punishment. The fact of eternal punishment is evidence of the benevolent goodness of God, that the righteous may not be eternally embarrassed by the hellish deeds of the wicked. And from the fact that God obligated himself in making a prophetic remedy through Jesus Christ to change the course of the wicked in time."

"The penalty of death is the most dreaded evil that men suffer in the present world; for this reason it is made the final infliction of punitive justice for crimes committed against human government."

"Hold God's burning candle over the pit of your heart and look into the depths of that walled-up blackness and cry to God to apply the remedy that makes it whiter than snow."

"There was one soul who made a profession of faith during the day."

Bad Drivers Increase
BOSTON (UP)—Revocations and suspensions of automobile driver's licenses in Massachusetts during 1934 increased 33.7 per cent, according to Registrar of Motor Vehicles Morgan T. Ryan. During 1934 there were 8,117 revocations and suspensions, compared with 6,274 for 1933.

Use Mail Tribune want ads

1934 GREATEST YEAR FOR OREGON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

That 1934 was the biggest year in its history was brought out at the 40th annual meeting of the Oregon Mutual Fire Insurance company, held at McMinnville, Ore., according to Leland Clark local agent for the company.

During the past year the company had a 23 per cent gain in assets, amounting to \$174,540.40, making total resources of \$918,563.78, and a total of \$355,692.34 surplus. The increase in business during the year was approximately 20 per cent over the best year ever experienced by the company. This gain was general throughout the five states in which the company operates. L. M. Waughman, secretary, pointed out the fact that the company's statement shows over a quarter million dollars in government bonds and cash, and over a half million dollars in high-grade municipal bonds and securities.

W. C. Hagerty, who has served the company as secretary and president respectively during the past 30 years, and Bert E. Haney, prominent attorney of Portland, were re-elected members of the board of directors. President Hagerty received many congratulations from members living throughout the state for his efficient and faithful service to the company for the 30 years he has served it as manager.

Phone 542 We'll haul away your refuse City Sanitary Service

THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



PREDICAMENT OF A MAN WITH A TRAIN TO CATCH WHO CAN'T REMEMBER IN WHICH TELEPHONE BOOTH HE LEFT HIS UMBRELLA, ALL BOOTHS NOW BEING OCCUPIED

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By C M Payne

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HAL FORREST

By Hal Forrest

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Serving Notice!



BY EDWIN ALGOK

By EDWIN ALGOK

THE NEBBS—No Interest



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By Sol Hess

LONELY SETTLERS SHUT IN BY SNOW IN NEED OF FOOD

ROSEBURG, Ore., Jan. 22.—(P)—Word was brought to Roseburg of the plight of more than a score of families in the Callahan trail settlement at the summit of the Coast range, resulting this morning in the sending of a crew to the Melrose CCC camp to clear the recently constructed forest road to the top of the mountain range and carry food supplies to the distressed settlers. Eight men from the settlement reached Roseburg, after battling deep snow for two days, and reported that several families in the settlement had exhausted their food supplies and were beginning to suffer from hunger.

A crew from the CCC camp at Bendford, on the Roseburg-Coos Bay highway, reached here this morning, and was augmented by local forest service workers under the direction of Bob Mercer.

Headquarters were established at the Melrose CCC camp, which was vacated in the early fall, and work

will be pressed in clearing about 15 miles of mountain road to reach the snowbound families.

The forest service was advised that the road to the Callahan district is blocked by scores of fallen trees, small slides, and from three to seven feet of snow.

Men are being sent ahead on snowshoes to carry emergency rations and repair the broken telephone lines. Food is being furnished through the local relief office.

FRUIT GROWERS REGRET DEPARTURE OF SCHERER

Fruitgrowers of the Rogue River valley, at the annual meeting of the Fruitgrowers league here Saturday, expressed deep regret in losing the association and leadership of Paul A. Scherer, a director and past president, who recently moved to San Francisco. The formal expression of sentiment of the league mentioned Scherer's able leadership, contributions to the benefit of the industry and those engaged in it, and wished him every success in future undertakings.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

BRINGING UP FATHER



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By George Mumford