

# THE BOOMERANG CLUE

By AGATHA CHRISTIE

**SYNOPSIS:** Bobby Jones and Lady Frances Derwent, better known as Frankie, have decided that Roger Bassington-French is the man who pushed Alexander Trichard over the cliff at Marchholt, and killed him. But now that Frankie has gotten herself into the Bassington-French country, how is a man, she wonders. Roger seems too nice, and Henry, his brother, turns out to be a morphine addict and a very pleasant. Besides, various under-currents seem to lead Frankie toward the Nicholsons, who run a cure for drug addicts.

Chapter 19  
ALAN CARSTAIRS

"YOU'D better call her Frankie as I do," said Sylvia. "Isn't it odd how whenever one talks of any person or thing, somebody else does the same immediately afterwards?"

"They are Canadians, aren't they?" inquired Frankie.

"He is, certainly. I rather fancy she is English, but I'm not sure. She's a very pretty little thing—quite charming, with the loveliest big wistful eyes. Somehow or other I fancy she isn't terribly happy. It must be a depressing life."

"He runs a kind of sanitarium, doesn't he?"

"Yes, nerve cases and people who take drugs. He's very successful, I believe. He's rather an impressive man."

Shane's at Claridge? On the 16th it was."

"It couldn't have been on the 16th," said Sylvia quickly. "Roger was here then. I remember, because we had a children's party that day, and what I should have done without Roger, I simply don't know."

She gave a grateful glance at her brother-in-law and he smiled back at her.

"I don't feel I've ever met you before," he said thoughtfully to Frankie and added, "I'm sure, if I had, I'd remember it." He said it rather nicely.

"One point settled," thought Frankie. "Roger Bassington-French was not in Wales on the day that Bobby was poisoned."

The second point came up fairly easily later. Frankie led the talk to country places, their dullness, and the interest aroused by any local excitement.

"We had a man fall over the cliff last month," she remarked. "We were all thrilled to the core. I went to the inquest full of excitement, but it was all rather dull really."

"Was that at a place called Marchholt?" asked Sylvia suddenly.

Frankie nodded. "Derwent Castle is only about seven miles from Marchholt," she explained.



"It must be a depressing life."

"You like him?"

"No," said Sylvia abruptly. "I don't. And rather vehemently, after a moment or two, she added, "Not at all."

Later on, she pointed out to Frankie a photograph of a charming, large-eyed woman which stood on the piano.

"That's Mrs. Nicholson. An appealing face, isn't it? A man, who came down here with some friends of ours some time ago was quite struck with it. He wanted an introduction to her, I think." She laughed. "I'll ask them to dinner to-morrow night. I'd like to know what you think of him."

"Him?"

"Yes. As I told you, I dislike him, and yet he's quite an attractive-looking man."

Something in her tone made Frankie look at her quickly, but Sylvia a Bassington-French had turned away and was taking some dead flowers out of a vase.

FRANKIE looked inquiringly at him.

"I was actually in at the death," said Roger. "I stayed with the body till the police came."

"I thought one of the Vicar's sons did that," said Frankie.

"He had to go off to play the organ or something—so I took over." "How perfectly extraordinary!" said Frankie. "I did hear somebody else had been there too, but I never heard the name. So it was you."

There was a general atmosphere of "How curious! Isn't the world small!" Frankie felt she was doing this rather well.

"Perhaps that's where you saw me before—in Marchholt?" suggested Roger.

"I wasn't there actually at the time of the accident," said Frankie. "I came back from London a couple of days afterward. Were you at the inquest?"

"No. I went back to London the morning after the tragedy."

"He had some absurd idea of buying a house down there," said Sylvia. Roger laughed. Then he turned to Frankie. "Any points of interest about the accident? It didn't turn out to be suicide or anything?"

"Oh, no, it was all painfully above-board, and some appalling relations came and identified the man. Did you see his picture in the papers?"

"I think I did," said Sylvia vaguely.

"I've got a cutting upstairs from our local paper."

Frankie ran upstairs and came down with the cutting in her hand.

"Don't you think he's good-looking?" Frankie demanded.

"He is, rather," said Sylvia. "He looks very like that man Alan Carstairs."

"He's got quite a look of him here," agreed Roger. "But there wasn't much real resemblance, you know."

Frankie went to bed undecided. Everyone seemed to have reacted with perfect naturalness. The only thing she had succeeded in getting was the name of Alan Carstairs.

Tomorrow the dark blue Talbot re-enters the puzzle.

## OREGON EDUCATION PLAN IS EXTOLLED

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Feb. 25.—(AP)—A single-headed administration of state supported institutions of higher education is not only most economical, but has a great many other advantages over the decentralized plan, prominent educators from all parts

of the United States were told Monday by Dr. Frederick M. Hunter, chancellor of higher education for the state of Oregon.

Dr. Hunter described the operation of a unified administration of higher education before a symposium of the department of superintendents of the National Education Association.

The Weather.

Northern California: Generally fair tonight and Wednesday, except unsettled with light rain on extreme north coast and snow over extreme

northern mountains; slightly colder in south and central portions tonight; heavy frosts or freezing temperature Wednesday morning; moderate northwest wind off coast.

Oregon: Occasional snow in east and rain or snow in west tonight and Wednesday; little change in temperature; strong southeast wind off coast; gales off Washington coast today; southeast storm warnings ordered at 7 a. m. at all Washington ports and at the mouth of Columbia river.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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Carbon monoxide is poisonous only to red-blooded animals. It robs the red corpuscles of their ability to carry oxygen to the cells. The fly, which has no red blood, is immune to this deadly gas.

The great synthetic dye industry was born of a failure of 17-year-old William Henry Perkin, English chemist, in 1856. He was trying to make quinine, but something went wrong in the product of his experiment was a beautiful violet dye. He called it "mauve"—it was the first

of many synthetic dyes that are now known to industry.

George Washington led the colonies to freedom and victory—but his war record shows that he lost more battles than he won. Before the Revolution he and his followers were defeated and captured at Fort Mifflin, 1776, and a year later Washington was defeated at Fort Duquesne. Howe defeated him badly in August, 1776, near New York—then came a succession of defeats: Brandywine Creek, Germantown, Monmouth, and a series of narrow escapes from the enemy. Victories

credited to Washington are the important battles at Trenton and Princeton, and finally the decisive battle of the war—the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

In some parts of arid Chile rains fall so rarely that the oldest inhabitants can recall but a shower or two in their lifetime. Here sodium nitrate, which is readily soluble in water like ordinary table salt, is used in building houses. A good rain would melt the walls to shapeless heaps—but the odds against rain of any kind are great.

## THE WORLD AT ITS WORST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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## SMATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



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## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Just a Desert Mystery!



2429

By HAL FORREST

## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Request Granted



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## THE NEBBS—That's An Argument!

By SOL HESS



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## ELECTRIC 'HEART' OF SEWAGE PLANT SHOWN TO PUBLIC

A new electric distribution system, employing all thermal discharges instead of the conventional fuses, is now on display at the Peoples Electric store, destined for use in the Medford sewage disposal plant now under construction. The key-off in case of an overload or a direct short-circuit is accomplished automatically by the recoil of a thermal spring which becomes heated. When the spring has cooled and the cause of trouble corrected, a flick of the switch by hand reopens the circuit.

The new distribution center is the latest development of the Westing-

house Electric laboratories, and is a forerunner of the every-day household distribution box of the future, according to Ben Trowbridge of the Peoples staff. Electric energy totaling 200 horsepower will flow through the center distributing system, operating the sludge pumps, blowers and drying bed mechanism at the disposal plant. Electric energy of 1,000 watts will also be controlled through the board, it was stated.

The new control was shipped here taken down, and assembled in the Peoples plant. When installed it will have cost approximately \$2,000, and will comprise about a third of the electrical apparatus at the plant.

Those interested in inspecting the interesting go-time circuit breaker are invited to do so, according to Peoples Electric store officials. It will be on display for about one month.

POWERS, Ore., Feb. 23.—(AP)—The Coos Bay Logging company's camp on Eiten Ridge remained closed today as a result of an additional foot of snow. About 40 men were affected. The camp at Patricks and the mill at Mansfield continued operations.