

The Wrong Murderer

By HUGH CLEVELY

SYNOPSIS: Lee-Ramsden had hired Ambrose Lawson and his gang of henchmen to make away with Ruth Fraser, who is Lee-Ramsden's wife. Terence Mahony released Ruth, however, and Ruth has tried to repay him by providing a false alibi for Terence in the matter of a murder. Terence did not commit the murder, but Lee-Ramsden is extracting valuable information for the use of himself and Lawson.

Chapter 19 FALSE AT HEART

AFTER coffee had been served, Lee-Ramsden took Mahony up to the study for a cigar, leaving Ruth in the drawing-room. There Lee-Ramsden's manner changed, became altogether serious.

"This is a nasty business, Mahony, a very nasty business," he said. "I may seem rather casual about it, but I hate my ward being mixed up in it. You were a friend of young Ross, weren't you?"

"Yes," admitted Mahony. "And Ross pretended to be a friend of Lawson. Actually he hated him—hated and feared him. I don't go about with my eyes shut, and I've noticed the way Ross looked at Lawson when he thought nobody was watching him."

It was absolute lies, of course; he had noticed nothing of the kind; but he spoke very convincingly. Mahony was conscious of a new respect for the old man.

"A charming fellow, Lawson," continued Lee-Ramsden. "So handsome and cultured. And also, if I'm any judge of men, one of the most unprincipled blackguards in creation. He seems to have been bobbing up a good deal in this matter last night and this morning, doesn't he?"

He paused. "Won't you tell me the whole story?" he asked. "I'll help you if I can. My ward is a very good reason why I should help you. I might easily be useful; I'm not altogether without brains, and even influence."

Again it was superbly acted; the old man appeared quite sincere. Mahony was quite won over. He told Lee-Ramsden the whole story. At the end of the story Lee-Ramsden's face was very stern.

"Those fellows must be crushed," he said. "Utterly stamped out. Hanging is a damned sight too good for them. I'm with you, Mahony, to the last inch."

He held out his hand. Mahony took it. It was then that, for the first time, Mahony noticed the curious shape of Lee-Ramsden's hands.

AFTER Mahony had gone, Lee-Ramsden laughed. There was still an air of amusement about him when Mullins entered later in the afternoon with his tea. "What did you think of your Mahony, Mullins?" he asked.

"A very ordinary young man, if I may say so, sir," replied Mullins. Lee-Ramsden shook his head.

"On the contrary, Mullins, a very extraordinary young man," said Lee-Ramsden. "He has both brains and guts. I like him. And that's a great pity, because I'm afraid he's going to die young. Do you know what he told me?"

"No sir," said Mullins. "He told me," said Lee-Ramsden in a shocked tone, "that the foul gang who kidnaped Miss Ruth meant to make her a drug addict, so that when they released her, she, and incidentally her money, would still be entirely under their control. Isn't that dreadful?"

"Er... yes, sir," said Mullins. He hardly seemed to know how to answer. Lee-Ramsden laughed.

"Don't be a hypocrite, Mullins; the only dreadful part of the scheme from our point of view is that it did not succeed," he said genially. "What will be really dreadful will be if I lose control of Ruth's money when she's twenty-one. But I don't intend to, Mullins; I don't intend to."

AFTER leaving Lee-Ramsden's house, Mahony took the Underground to Notting Hill Gate Station, and began to walk back to his lodgings. About ten yards from the station entrance a man hurrying along the pavement bumped into him somewhat roughly.

"Sorry," said the man. He paused for a moment, looking at Mahony curiously. "Isn't your name Mahony?" he asked. "Terence Mahony?"

"Yes," answered Mahony. "What about it?" He did not feel in the mood to chat to strangers. "My name's Milson," said the stranger. "Andrew Milson. Don't you remember me?"

"No," answered Mahony. To the best of his knowledge he had never seen the man before in his life. "I met you a couple of years ago, in the Shanghai Bar," said Milson confidently. "At that time I believe you were special correspondent in China for an American newspaper—the Chicago Leader."

That information was correct. Two years previously Mahony had done newspaper work for an American paper. He had also quite frequently been in the Shanghai Bar. "I saw another chap from China

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FORECAST STRIKE AT COULEE DAM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—(AP)—A strike at Grand Coulee dam in Washington state was forecast today by

John P. Coyne, chairman of the board of trustees of the international union of operating engineers, unless builders of the federal reclamation project meet union demands for recognition and a pay increase. Coyne said the international organization had given consent to operate of Mason, Walsh, Atkinson & Kier company, the contractors, "to strike when and if they see fit."

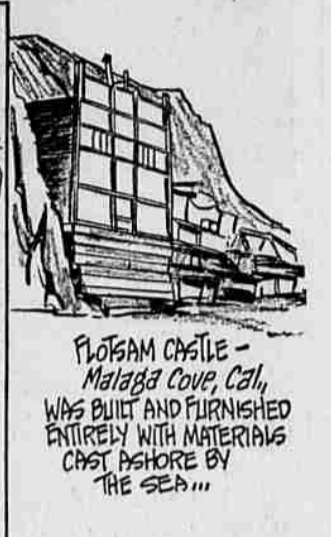
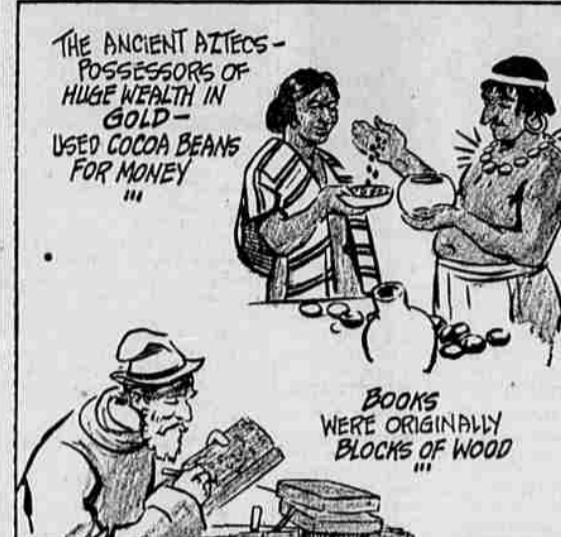
the big \$80,000,000 Columbia river project, although operating engineers are few in number in comparison with other workers.

Flour Subsidy Price PORTLAND, Oct. 24.—(AP)—U. S. Department of Agriculture reported the flour subsidy price Saturday at 150 per bbl., unchanged from Friday.

AUTO LOANS AND REFINANCING W E Thomas 48 S Central

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

For further proof address the author, inclosing a stamped envelope for reply. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



First Downless Wonders
Strange as it seems, the Herndon high school team, soundly drubbed by a score of 126-0, made the only first down of the entire game! The reason? Every time their opponents, the Glenn Rogers griders, took the ball they made a touchdown!

Cocoa Money
Money really did grow on trees in Central America at one time! In the days of the Spanish conquest the Aztecs and Maya both used the cocoa bean as their monetary standard. Yet the Aztecs had tremendous hoards of gold.

Flotsam Castle
This building cost but little money but much work, without which life affords no satisfying kick. This statement, crudely carved into a board which served somewhat as a cornerstone on "Flotsam Castle," expressed the philosophy of the man who built the queer structure. Strange as it seems, every piece of wood and stone that went into the building of "Flotsam Castle" was cast up on the California coast by the sea. Even the stove and other furnishings in the dwelling were "gifts of the Pacific."

Some years ago the beachcombing architect was forced to leave his odd dwelling when it was torn down to make way for modern improvements.

"Book" Derivation
Ancient Saxons and Germans first used beech wood to write on, by scratching symbols into them. The Anglo-Saxon word for beech was boc, later changed to its present form to mean "book."

Monday: The 20-Minute Battle!

THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEAGUE



SMATTER POP—By C. M. PAYNE



TAILSPIN TOMMY—The Chief Is Put in Storage!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Champ



THE NF.BBS—Pals Under the Skin



EGG SHOWER FOR CALIFORNIA RED

EL CENTRO, Calif., Oct. 24.—(AP)—Esco Richardson, communist congressional candidate, returned to Los Angeles today after a crowd of 300 persons had dragged him from in front of a radio microphone here last night and pelted him with rotten eggs and fruit.

Forming quickly about the radio station at the hour set for Richardson's address, the crowd pulled a switch, cutting him off the air as he began to talk, and then escorted him to a vacant lot nearby.

There members ordered him to make his speech, but howled him down and forced him to go to the railroad station and board a train.

GUEST-OF-OREGON ON AUTO PERMIT

SALEM, Oct. 24.—(AP)—The words "guest of Oregon" will be used on all non-resident permits for out-of-state cars during 1937, Secretary of State Earl Sells said in announcing a departure from the usual formal permits required by law.

The wording on the more democratic sticker was suggested by Aaron Frank of Portland and the neat design adopted was drawn by George Stepiens, an employee of the secretary of state's office. They will be issued shortly to the 31 non-resident registrars in the state.

The change was made in cooperation in every way possible to make visitors to Oregon welcome, Sells said.