

# MURDER ON THE BLUFF

**SYNOPSIS:** The mysterious death of Judge Blinshop, my old flame, opens our stormy weekend at Farrington Bluff, home of Michael's aunts. After a series of strange attacks, we find the body of Michael's mad father below the bluff. Aunt Martha is shot in the shoulder, then nearly drugged to death with sleeping powders. The Skipper, Mike's tall and tuxedoed younger aunt, disappears and we search for her frantically. Finally I talk with Cook, William, the chauffeur, and Annie, the maid, who strongly suspect Higgins, the elderly butler.

## Chapter 41 Queer Actions

I COULDN'T decide whether William was rambling in an attempt to gain time or because he really considered the details of his story important. There was nothing to be gained from the faces of the others. They were both seemingly engrossed in the story.

"Is that all?"

William plunged on eagerly. "All I could get to sleep, like I told you. The noise was awful and Annie was pretty scared. We were in my room. Along about 11 o'clock or a little after Annie got so excited I went out to see if I could get something to make her sleep. Cook didn't have anything, so I knocked at Higgins' door."

"There was a light inside, but nobody answered. I figured he couldn't hear me on account of the wind, so I open the door and walks in. Higgins wasn't in that room and neither was anybody else. I didn't think nothing of it then. I figured he was out fastening up blinds and things, and thought he was a stubborn fool not to ask me to help him. But next day I done considerable thinking when he tells you he went to bed at 11 o'clock."

I restrained a snort of impatience. "But that doesn't mean a thing, William. Higgins only made a rough guess at the time. It would really be suspicious if he'd hit it right on the dot."

William shook his head stubbornly. "Not for Higgins. That bird wouldn't think of rolling over in bed without looking at the clock to see if it was the right time for it."

There was an idea in that. "Just how does it happen that you are so sure of what the time was when you went into his room?"

"That's why I went out at all. I'd been kidding Annie to make her think there wasn't nothing wrong in her not being asleep yet. She made me go on the light and look at the clock. And then I went out."

William was no slouch himself as an alibi artist. "Anno you think you can turn Higgins over to the police," I said, "because he happened to be a few minutes off in his calculation of the time he went to bed? Use your head."

"I am using it!" doggedly. "Annie finally got to sleep, but by that time I was jumpy myself. I thought, 'Maybe I'd oughta go out and help the old miss. This is a hell of a night and no mistake.' So I got into my pants and shirt and started after him."

"There'd been a light on in the hall before, mind you, but it was out now. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I was looking for the light and I hear a door downstairs bang hard. I turn toward the stairs, thinking that something had been blown open and better be fastened, and all of a sudden I hear someone coming down the main hall like a house afire."

"I thought someone was sick or something, but before I could more than turn around, the door into our hall swings open and Higgins comes tearing through. There was a light in the big hall and I could see him plain as day. He had all his clothes on and he looked like all hell was after him. Before I could open my mouth he'd tore into his room and I could hear him locking the door."

William paused for breath.

### Higgins' Pretense

"CO ON!" said Annie and I simultaneously. William frowned. "I didn't know what to do. If he'd needed help he could of woke me easy as not. And he hadn't. He'd locked his door. I think he's cracked for fair, that's what, and I'd better tell Miss Farrington first thing in the morning. So I start to go into my own room, but before I could close the door I hears someone else tearing down the main hall. I opens my door just a crack and sees Mr. Michael come rushing in and begin to pound on Higgins' door. He was soaking wet and pretty excited. I open my mouth to sing out and ask what's up and just then Higgins opens his door. Damned if he ain't in his night-

clothes, blinking like he'd been asleep since noon!

"I wasn't going to get caught listening, not with Higgins the way he'd been lately. I closed my door, but I stood there listening, and the first thing I hear is Mr. Michael saying, 'Wake up everybody in the house. I can't find Miss Barbara and Miss Blinshop!'"

"I knew right off that the first thing the old boy would do would be to come through the bathroom after me, and there was Annie sound asleep. I routed her out quick and got her over by the door. The minute she hears Higgins' door close, she skins across the hall into Cook's room. With Mr. Michael only halfway down the hall, it was a tight squeak, but it worked!"

"William," I said roughly, "if you'd told this story in the first place, you might have saved at least one life. Do you realize that?"

The man's face was troubled. "Jobs is scarce."

"Lives are scarcer!" I snapped. "Is there any more?"

It was a stupid attitude to take, and I realized it the minute the words by the door. The minute she hears Higgins' door close, she skins across the hall into Cook's room. With Mr. Michael only halfway down the hall, it was a tight squeak, but it worked!"

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## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



**KEY WEST, Florida,**  
THE MOST SOUTHERN CITY IN THE U.S.,  
WAS THE ONLY SOUTHERN CITY NEVER HELD  
BY THE CONFEDERATES DURING THE  
CIVIL WAR!

A COCKROACH  
LED TO THE ARREST,  
CONVICTION AND ELECTROCUTION  
OF ALBERT FISH IN 1936,  
FOR A KIDNAP-MURDER  
HE HAD COMMITTED  
8 YEARS BEFORE!  
-NEW YORK CITY-

TERRY AND OTT, PLAYING FOR THE SAME TEAM,  
NEW YORK, N.Y., MADE THE SAME ALL-TIME  
RECORD IN THE SAME YEAR--  
BY FAILING TO  
STEAL A BASE  
IN 153 GAMES--  
-1934-



6-22-37 McLaughlin Syndicate, Inc.

**Key West**  
Of all cities in the United States south of the Mason-Dixon line, Key West, Florida, was the only city that was not taken at one time or another by Confederate forces during the Civil War. Yet, strange as it seems Key West was and still is the most southern city in the United States. With its harbor defended by the forbidding guns of Fort Taylor which was built in 1846, the city managed to hold off invasion throughout the war between the states.

In the Spanish-American war, the Seminoles and the Mexican war, Key West was of considerable military importance.

The Fatal Cockroach  
On June 3, 1928, Little Grace Blvd., of New York City, was reported missing. A short while later, newspapers headlined the story of finding her body—murdered by a person or persons unknown. Not until eight years later did the clue come to light that led to the electrocution of the child's murderer.

A letter was received by Grace's parents one day in 1934. Police were summoned to examine it. The envelope in which it arrived was identified as the same type as that used by the chauffeurs' license bureau. A check-up was made and it was found that an employee of the bureau had taken home several of the envelopes. He had recently moved, leaving the

envelopes in his vacated room.

Police hurried to his old address. There they found Abraham Fish. Questioning established him as the murderer. Asked how he had come to use the license bureau envelope for the letter that tracked him down, Fish revealed a weird story. Lacking an envelope after writing the letter he had searched the room. Not finding one, he was about to give up when he noticed a cockroach crawling up the wall. As he got up on a chair to kill it, his head came level with a shelf. On it were some envelopes. He took one to use for his letter. The cockroach had directed him on the road to the electric chair.

Tomorrow: Horseman of the Air!

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His largest previous crop on his orchard 16 miles below Huntington was 72,600 boxes in 1935.

SALEM, June 22.—(AP)—County Agent Vantrump said recent rains did heavy damage to both strawberry and cherry crops in Marion county. He said that 50 percent of the cherries were cracked.

PORT ORFORD RAINFALL HEAVIEST SINCE 1852

PORT ORFORD, June 22.—(AP)—A half foot of rain the past 48 hours sent this coast point's drenching to the greatest depth for June since 1852, when records first were kept. The gauge here showed 10.16 inches to date.

The nearest approach to this record

was in 1906 when the figures read 8.67. The average rainfall is 2.15 inches.

LARGEST PEACH CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

BAKER, June 22.—(AP)—W. E. Baker, reputed here to be the largest peach grower in the Pacific northwest said he expected to exceed all previous

records because of perfect crop conditions this year.

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## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



SUGGESTS TO EDDIE SELZER, WITH WHOM HE IS PLAYING CRICK, THAT THEY GO IN AND WORK ON HIS SHORT WAVE SET

LEADS THE WAY IN, LEAVING BASEBALL EQUIPMENT ON FRONT LAWN

IN A FEW MINUTES HAS TOOLS AND RADIO PARTS STREWN OVER CELLAR FLOOR

NOT MAKING MUCH PROGRESS, SUGGESTS THAT EDDIE RUN OVER AND GET HIS STAMPS AND THEY'LL TRADE

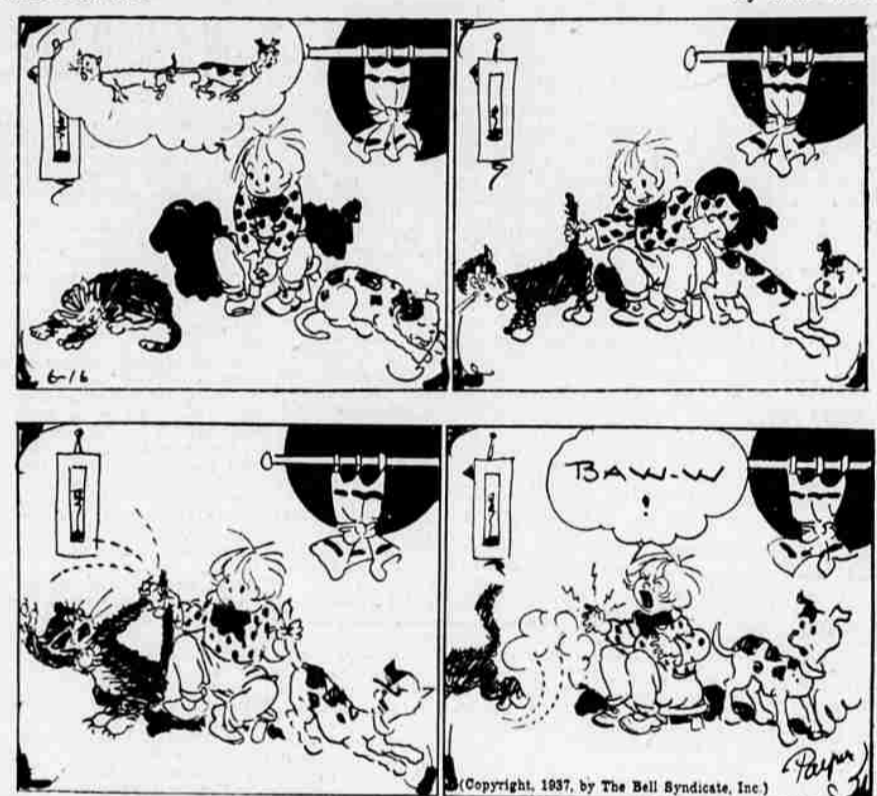
COVER BEDROOM FLOOR WITH STAMPS, TRADING TWO OF THEM

DECIDE TO GET THEIR BICYCLES. RIDE THEM FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND, LEAVING THEM IN DRIVEWAY, GO IN TO EDDIE'S TO BEG SOME COOKIES

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## SMATTER POP

By C. M. PAYNE



BAW-W

(Copyright, 1937, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy Bluffs It Out!



TOMMY WAS JUST CONGRATULATING HIMSELF THAT HE HAD CONVINCED JUSTINA, MEMBER OF THE ESPIONAGE GANG, THAT HE IS TOMMY LACEY, SLAIN SPY PILOT AND BOY FRIEND OF THE EXOTIC GIRL, WHOM SHE HAD NOT SEEN FOR SIX MONTHS, WHEN BETTY-LOU AND SKEETERS ENTERED THE BLUE LANTERN INN TO DANCE, AND THEN IT HAPPENED!



TOMMY!

WHO IS THIS... WOMAN, TONY?

2843

## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The Campaign Opens



YOU MUST HAVE SIXTY OR MORE BOXES OF RICE ABOARD, BEN—

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR A STARTER—I'LL PICK UP SOME HAND BILLS AT THE BUGY BEE PRINT SHOP—

WITH UNCLE NAT'S LIST I GUESS I CAN COVER MOST OF THE PLACES THIS AFTERNOON—THINK I'LL START WITH THE BILL KROGERS—THEY'RE REAL NEWLYWEDS—

NAT, I'M WORRIED—D'YOU RECKON ANYTHIN' HAPPENED TO BEN'S THINKIN' MACHINE? OVERWORK, MEBBE? HAS HE TOLD YOU ANYTHIN'?

BEN'S TOLD ME NOTHING, HETTY. HIGGINS BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT BOY'S THINKING TANK—IT'S WORKING OVERTIME FOR HIGGINS' STORE AND IT'S NOT THE KIND THAT BREAKS DOWN!

3-19

## THE NEBBS—Another Prospect (or)?



OLD GRINNER'S REPRESENTATIVE IS REMAINING IN TOWN WHILE SOME CHANGES ARE BEING MADE IN 'AWCOMONINN' NOW OWNED BY GRINNER... A NEW RADIO STATION IS COMING IN WHERE YOU CAN DINE AND SEE AND LISTEN TO THE BROADCASTING

YOUR FRIEND, MISS VENUS, FROM HER APPEARANCE I IMAGINE SHE'S STILL A 'MISS'

HER NAME AIN'T VENUS, IT'S EMMY—EMMY GRUNTLEY AND THE RICHEST PERSON IN TOWN OUTSIDE MEBBE THE BANKER POTTS AND RIGHT NOW THREE FELLERS ARE SPARKIN' HER—I TOOK HER TO A PITCHER SHOW A COUPLE TIMES MYSELF—BEING A POLICE MAN I GET PASSES!

OUTSIDE OF HER BEING A BIT CHUBBY, SHE AIN'T SO HARD TO LOOK AT... SO SHE'S GOT DOUGH... HOW MUCH DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S GOT OFFICER?

WELL SHE'S GOT A PART OF A GOLD MINE AND WHAT—EVER ELSE SHE MADE SHE'S GOT, SHE DON'T LET LOOSE OF NO MONEY, AFRAID SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD BE FOOLISH WITH IT!

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

## OFFICERS ELECTED BY TOWNSENDITES IN ROSEBURG MEET

ROSEBURG, Ore., June 22.—(AP)—Mrs O. C. Thomas of Vernonia was elected president of the executive board for the first congressional district of Townsend clubs at the district congress held in Roseburg Sunday. More than 1,000 persons attended the all-day sessions of the convention.

Dr. E. H. Epler, Salem, was made vice-president; Charles L. Paine, Eugene, was re-elected secretary, and Judge E. J. Novel Oregon City, was re-elected treasurer.

Each of the officers will represent his county on the 15-man executive board.

William Perry was elected director from Jackson county.

The convention re-employed Arthur Moore of Monmouth as district manager.

Delegate and visitors were addressed at the morning session by District Attorney J. V. Long of Roseburg and in the afternoon by Willis E. Mahoney of Klamath Falls.

Resolutions adopted carried the usual expressions of appreciation for

hospitality; reaffirmation of confidence in Dr. Francis E. Townsend, author of the pension plan, and an appeal to congress to substitute the Townsend plan for the present social security act.

An invitation from Corvallis for the next district meeting was accepted. The next convention will be held in December.

## Carson and Bride Leave For Beach

PORTLAND, June 22.—(AP)—Mayor Joseph B. Carson and his bride were at an unannounced destination along the Oregon beaches today on their honeymoon trip, leaving Saturday night following the wedding ceremony at the White temple.

Portland's most-talked-of wedding in recent years, was consummated before 2,000 invited guests when the mayor took as his wife Miss Myrtle Annville, daughter of Mrs. Minnie Belle Purling of Heppner. She was given in marriage by Will A. Knight.

MISSING WOMAN'S BODY DISCOVERED IN DITCH

STAYTON, June 22.—(AP)—The body of Mrs. Minnie Schwartz Miesler, 53, missing Stayton woman, was found in Shelton ditch about five miles from here and a mile above Astoria Sunday afternoon. She had disappeared from her home Saturday morning. Mrs. Miesler had been in ill health for some time. She was a past officer of the Redwood club.

By HAL FORREST

By EDWIN ALGER

By SOL HESS