

# MURDER ON THE BLUFF

**SYNOPSIS:** Jude Blinshop, my old flame, is mysteriously shot to death. That starts our stormy weekend at Farrington Bluff, home of Michael's aunt. A series of strange attacks occurs. Then we find the body of Michael's mad father below the bluff. Aunt Martha is shot in the shoulder, then nearly finished with sleeping powder. The Skipper, Mike's tall, teeny younger aunt, disappears. Cook, William, the chauffeur, and Annie, the maid, suspect Higgins, the old butler, I lock him in his room, believing him the killer, then write out the case against each person.

## Chapter 43 Evidence And Motive

FUMBLING for more paper and hurried on.

### MICHAEL

Has refused point blank to answer questions. Recited some mysterious communication from Jude—perhaps the last she ever made. Was outdoors at some time near that at which Jude met her death. Fervently opposed to any investigation. Suggestion of hushing up whole thing uncharacteristic.

No proof that he did not kill the cat and wreck his aunt's room. First one on the spot after the shooting of M. Farrington. Would

of my head told me to go on. I must think quickly, and my thoughts on paper were worth a dozen of my thoughts left to themselves. I needed another drink, and I took one.

### COOK

A dope fiend at some time in her life. Very hot-headed. Strong as a bull. Capable of cleverly managed deceit over a long period. Possible motive—same as William's, plus the slightly unbalanced mind of the addict.

I wrote my next idea down with fingers that trembled with excitement.

Episode in the kitchen might have been an act designed by her to throw the authorities off the scent. Same applies to mysterious appearance and disappearance of William's letters. No evidence of her whereabouts at any time given by anyone but William and Annie. During the episode in William's room, William might have acted for Cook, whom he was fond of.

The mess in M. Farrington's room was the sort of thing that might be expected of a drug-crazed person. Both of the Farrington sisters trusted Cook. She is as strong as a man. Might have bodily removed either the Skipper or M. Farrington. Note: All hypothetical. No real evidence.

Nevertheless, I experienced a thrill over that possibility. In its light, I could explain the entire performance of Cook, aiding William and Annie to

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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

ELEPHANT JEWELRY—RINGS ARE MADE OF SINGLE HAIRS FROM THE TAILS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS... THEY ARE AS THICK AS A PENCIL LEAD...



THE GREAT ISE SHRINES, near Nagoya, Japan, ARE DESTROYED EVERY 20 YEARS— THEN REBUILT EXACTLY AS THEY WERE

THE BOSTON RED SOX USED 4 PITCHERS IN THE FIRST INNING AGAINST THE PHILADELPHIA ATHLETICS... — May 21, 1932 —



**HUGO GROTIUS**  
Great Dutch statesman,  
ENTERED UNIVERSITY AT 12, EDITED AN ENCYCLOPEDIA AT 15, WAS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY AT 17 AND BECAME ADVOCATE-GENERAL OF HOLLAND AT 24!

Born in Leyden, Holland, Hugo Grotius set a terrific pace in his education. At nine he was writing first class Latin verse—at 12 he entered university. Three years later he edited the encyclopedic work of Marquand Capella, then went to the court of France with a special embassy.

In 1599, at the age of 17, Grotius conducted his first law suit, won widespread fame for the ability he displayed in the handling of it, and was appointed States-General historiographer at 20. When 24 he was made Advocate-General.

Life stopped running smoothly for Grotius in 1618. Involved in a political battle, he was thrown into prison

under a life sentence, escaped and went to France. Here he lived until 1631 when he returned to Holland in the hope that the charges against him would be dropped after his long exile. His enemies were still active, however, and Grotius was condemned to perpetual banishment. Sweden became his next place of refuge. He was gladly welcomed, was befriended by the government and won a post as Swedish ambassador to France, an office which he held for ten years.

Returning to Sweden via Holland, the expatriate was given a rousing welcome in Amsterdam. Most of his enemies were dead and his countrymen demanded his return. Hastening to Sweden, Grotius wound up his affairs there and headed back for his

native land. At Danzig a storm stopped him; he became ill, fought his way to Rostock and died, August 29, 1645.

Today Grotius is chiefly remembered for his "De Jure Belli et Pacis," regarded as the basis of modern international law.

**Elephant Jewelry**  
So thick are the tail hairs on certain species of African elephants that they are highly valued by natives as material for "good luck" rings and charms. Elephant hair jewelry is becoming a popular novelty throughout the world, according to Olga Tritt, noted New York jewelry expert.

Tomorrow: The Towel That Ended a War!



I brooded over that sheet for several minutes, cursing Michael.

have been trusted by all the victims even more than Higgins. Might have pocketed William's letter. Seems to have had some inside knowledge since the first night.

Note: Could not have been either Cook, Annie, William or myself. Ignorance of his father's existence singular. Bare possibility that his dive over the rocks was an attempt at suicide. Motive inconceivable.

I brooded over that sheet for several minutes. Not much evidence, aside from his queer actions that first night. Nothing definite. Just a vague, insistent undercurrent of duplicity totally unlike Michael. His rows with Gay were encouraging in that they might have been expected. Mike was set up rather like an August day—warm and sunny with occasional thunder-storms. For the dozenth time I cursed him for not taking me into his confounded secret, whatever it was. That close-mouthed attitude was not like him.

Gay, I wrote next and stopped at a complete loss. As far I could remember at that moment we had not one shred of evidence against Gay Palmer. True, no one had actually seen her in her room on the night of Jude's death, but no one had seen her out of it. The same applied to the episode of the cat and the dismantled room. She had been in the library when Cook and Annie were attacked, in her own room with all the others when William and I were brained. She had not been at the scene of a crime in one single instance.

Her actions, as far as I could see, had been perfectly natural and absolutely predictable. There was no trace of a motive, unless we were to go back to that little flare of jealousy so characteristically exhibited on that first evening. Her slate was so clean that for a moment my mystery writing habits sent a thrill of suspicion buzzing through my head. But I was obliged to laugh at my own suspicions. I wrote:

### Evidence—none. Motive—none.

### Case Against Cook

MY temples were beginning to pound like steam pipes. I knew that the time which I might decently allow myself for sulking in a corner had long since elapsed. I knew that the others upstairs must be getting impatient. But something in the back

execute revenge for his imprisonment, might have been obliged to go to appalling extremes in order to cover their own tracks. It was highly possible that the poor old lunatic, wandering around in the dead of night, had observed something he was not meant to see and had, accordingly, been done away with. The only substantiating witness to Higgins' alibi had thus been removed.

Perhaps M. Farrington had seen something, too. That would explain the several attempts on her life. What could she have seen? Apparently she was unaware of its importance. The coat-sleeve that she thought she saw in her mirror might have been William's.

### Must Bag The Culprit

TIME was passing. A very few hours remained before the probable arrival of a rescue party from shore. Unless we were to go through a worse ordeal than any we had yet encountered, it was vital that we have our culprit bagged and ready for delivery when that first boat touched shore. Gritting my teeth, I pushed on with my notations.

### ANNIE

Also capable of good bluff. Least so of the three. Was certainly tied up by someone else. Hysterics might have been due to strain instead of fright. Has seemed unafraid of empty house since first night. No definite evidence, incapable of any of it alone. Might do anything for or with William. Motive plausible.

### M. FARRINGTON

Invited Jude here. Heard last conversation between Skipper and Jude. With Skipper, when person was heard in upper hall. With others during attack on Cook and Annie and attack on William and me. Brother would have trusted her implicitly. Not strong enough to remove anyone bodily.

Last person to see the Skipper. Nearly killed twice. Apparently withholding evidence, consciously or otherwise. With Annie when letters were removed from William's room. Has acted characteristically throughout. Motive—none.

I look over the bluff and get an idea, tomorrow.

secret, as guests of the Standard Oil company of California.

At noon we visited the huge Fleischer swimming pool and zoo. The noon meal was eaten in the Beach Chalet overlooking the Pacific ocean. After lunch we went back to the city and spent the afternoon in the Boy Scout trading post. This post distributes supplies to all areas on the Pacific coast and Rocky mountains.

In the evening we went to Chinatown where a real Chinese dinner was eaten in the Shanghai restaurant. From there we went to the Chinatown telephone exchange where, instead of asking for a number, the Chinese give the name of the person to whom they wish to speak. There are 25,000 names listed in the exchange and the Chinese girl operators have memorized all the names.

From there we had to run to the Perry building in order to catch the last ferry. It is now 9:30 and we are on our way to Salt Lake City. The boys had a day full of new experiences, new sights and thrills and as I close this little episode I notice that even Roger and Jim are ready for bed.

HOOD RIVER GROWERS PLAN STORAGE PLANT  
HOOD RIVER, June 24.—(AP)—Construction work on a new storage plant for the Apple Growers association, designed to refrigerate 800,000 boxes of apples and pears, started today. The plant, which will be one of the largest in the northwest, will be five stories high and refrigeration

costs are expected to run less than 75 cents per box.  
Plan Wallows Bank  
SAN FRANCISCO, June 24.—(AP)—Transamerica Corporation's Oregon banking subsidiary, the First National Bank of Portland, will open a branch at Wallows, Oregon, July 1. There is no bank in the community. Use Mail Tribune want ads.

NEW K. F. BUILDING TO HOUSE LIQUOR STORE  
KLAMATH FALLS, June 24.—(AP)—Excavation has begun for a new building which will house the state liquor store here.  
The structure will consist of one room, 50 by 68 feet, and one story. Cost is estimated at \$7000.

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—It May Be a Trap!

AFTER SKEETER AND BETTY-LOU LEFT THE BLUE LANTERN INN, HEARTBROKEN, BECAUSE TOMMY POSING AS TONY LACEY, SLAIN SPY PILOT, REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THEM, ROBIE, THE PROPRIETOR OF THE INN AND SPY CONTACT MAN CALLED TOMMY INTO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE... 2845

YOU WILL DELIVER THIS LETTER TO JOSEF ORT, NUMBER TWELVE K STREET, TULSO... HE WILL INSTRUCT YOU FURTHER

FERR... LET ME HAVE THAT LETTER AGAIN...  
I ALMOST FORGOT TO PLACE MY PRIVATE SEAL UPON IT...

YOU SEE... IT HAS BECOME A HABIT WITH ME...  
I SEE...  
JUST WHAT IS IN THAT LETTER THAT ROBIE IS SO ANXIOUS TOMMY SHALL NOT SEE?

Does the message spell danger for Tommy?  
Time will tell...  
CONTINUED

## BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—The News Spreads!

WHEW! I'M TIRED, AND I'LL BET YOU ARE, TOO, BRIARISIE—WELL, WE'VE GIVEN GIFT PACKAGES OF RICE AWAY TO ALL THE NEWLYWEDS IN TOWN—

GEE, MRS. HIGGINS IS SELLING RICE TO THOSE TWO LADIES—WONDER IF THE NEWS HAS GOTTEN AROUND THIS FAST?

CONGRATULATIONS, BEN! LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE PUT OVER A SOCKDOLAGER! WERENT THE BILL KROGERS THE FIRST POLKS YOU CALLED ON?

OH, NOTHING, EXCEPT MOST OF THEIR IN-LAWS ON BOTH SIDES MUST'VE HEARD ABOUT IT—THEY'VE BEEN IN BUYING HAPPINESS RICE!  
GOSH! HONEST?

## THE NEBBS—The Big Boss

EMMA WAS IN TODAY— TELLS ME YOU LET HER GO— SHE FELT VERY BADLY ABOUT IT

YOU TOLD ME THE OTHER DAY WHEN I ASKED YOU TO TALK TO HER ABOUT HER NEGLECTING HER JOB. THAT I WAS RUNNING THE BUSINESS— PLEASE LET ME

SHE'S SO MIXED UP WITH HER NUMEROUS LOVE AFFAIRS THAT A RARE STEAK COMES OUT OF THE KITCHEN LOOKING LIKE A PIECE OF COKE

I WOULDN'T CARE IF SHE BURNED UP THE HOTEL— I'VE GOT INSURANCE ON THAT, BUT I CAN'T GET IT ON STEAKS AND CHOPS, AND SHE'S BEEN AROUND SO LONG NOW SHE TAKES ORDERS LIKE A BALDY MULE!!

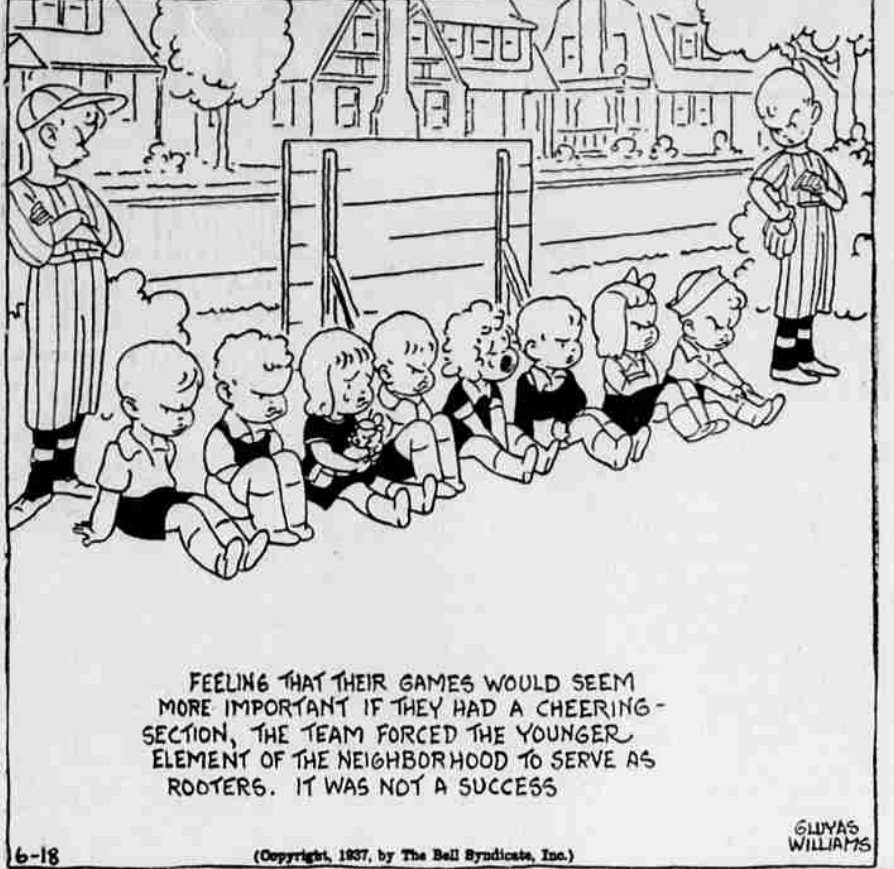
## VOYAGING SCOUTS ENJOY SIGHTS OF SAN FRAN REGION

(By Richard Thieroff.)  
SAN FRANCISCO, June 21.—(By Mail)—We arrived in Oakland this morning, safe and sound. Last night we picked up our last load of boys at Dunsmuir. Things would have been all right from then on if it had not been for Jimmie Elliott and Roger Olmscheid. Jimmie walked back and forth after water, spilling it on everyone, and Roger talked all night; consequently the whole outfit was up and about by 4 o'clock this morning.

We spent the day sightseeing around the bay, seeing the China Clipper bridges, Presidio, Alameda, Tubo and other chief points of in-

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD LEAGUE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



FEELING THAT THEIR GAMES WOULD SEEM MORE IMPORTANT IF THEY HAD A CHEERING-SECTION, THE TEAM FORCED THE YOUNGER ELEMENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO SERVE AS ROOTERS. IT WAS NOT A SUCCESS

## S'MATTER POP

By O. M. AYNE



I JUST CAME UP TO WHISPER SUMTHIN' IN YOUR EAR, POP  
OH-4, I'D HAVE COME DOWN, GLADLY!

## By HAL FORREST

## By EDWIN ALGER

## By SOL HESS