

OCTAGON HOUSE

BY PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR

The story of the adventures of a group of artists who are aroused when its citizens are caricatured in the post office mural. The next night the artist's wife, unscrupulous Marina Lorne, is murdered by a left handed blow from her sister's knife. Asey Mayo Cape Cod detective, conceals hunted Pamela Frye in his house. He has learned these facts. Pam found \$50,000 worth of ambergris which Marina tried to claim, and hid it after discovering Marina dead in the garage; someone who smokes Turkish tobacco was eavesdropping on Pam's story to learn the whereabouts of the ambergris. Then agreeable Tim Carr calls on Asey. He is 30, a boarder at the Frye's Octagon house, smokes Turkish tobacco, is left handed and tells Asey he hated Marina.

Another has been sitting out there all this time, holding a cat?" Asey sounded incredulous. "Oh, Emma's trained to a leash," Timothy said. "There goes the horn again—I'll dash out." Asey started to follow him, but remembering Pam Frye, he first ran upstairs to the bedroom. There was a note stuck on the door. "Dear Asey, I am taking a nap, I am exhausted, but call me when you need me for anything. Pam." Asey hesitated, and then thought, as he carefully locked the door and pocketed the key, the Lord knew she needed a nap. Outdoors he found Timothy standing beside a small coupé parked in the driveway. "My grandmother, Mrs. Carr," he said. "With Emma." The white haired woman inside was too absurdly young looking to be anyone's grandmother. Asey said so, to Mrs. Carr's delight. "There, Tim," she said. "That's the sort of gallantry I miss in your contemporaries. I—I watch Emma, she's getting out."

The largest Persian cat Asey had ever seen jumped with dignity from the seat down to the grass. "She's still ruffed," Mrs. Carr said. "Just the sight of brass buttons annoys her, and there were so many over there. Has Timothy told you how we yearned to kill Marina, and that we're both left handed? And what's to be done about Pam Frye—urge she didn't kill Marina, she's much too nice a child. But everyone seems to think so. That Aunt Nettie person—do you know that Nettie?" Asey found it hard to maintain his prejudices against Pam Frye and his grandmother. Perhaps, he decided, they were just naturally expansive and chatty. Perhaps they just couldn't help it. On the other hand, under the circumstances, their very matter of fact attitude was in itself suspicious. "Aunt Nettie's right," Asey said. "There's been a pain in folks' necks as long as I can remember. An' it's kind of hard to sum her up, too."

"Combing The House" MRS. CARR announced tartly that she personally could sum up Aunt Nettie in several words, and that nothing but modesty prevented her from doing so. "She takes 'jelly and custards to the sick,'" Mrs. Carr said. "And after she departs, the sick promptly die. Yes, I know the Aunt Nettie type. But the stinker—dear me, Timmy, you do add such foul words to my vocabulary! But the stinker was identifying the knife that killed Marina as Pam Frye's." "She's—uh—was she?" Asey caught himself just in time to keep from adding that Pam had admitted that the knife was hers. "Yes, I knew it was, I recognized it. But listen here, Pam was away, this afternoon when we all decided to go to this clam bake, and we left a note for her, and I personally stuck it on the back door with that knife—it was just sitting there, that knife, on the railing. Tonight I noticed that the note was still on the door, but it was held up by a pin. A common pin. And—" "And obviously," Timothy chimed in, "Pam Frye wouldn't remove the knife and then pin the note back again! That's just silly. What we think is, someone passing by grabbed the knife, and the same person used the knife to kill Marina with, knowing that it would implicate Pam. Doesn't that seem likely?" Asey admitted that it did. "And that Nettie!" Mrs. Carr said indignantly. "There she sits when we left, telling hordes of police and all those reporters that Pam must have had the knife on her belt this evening, because she had on the belt! That woman is a menace, she should be forcibly restrained! And so should the police! Did Tim tell you that, simply combing Octagon House?" "Combing—what for?" Asey demanded, thinking instantly of the ambergris. That was hidden there, somewhere. "This Nettie saw Pam run out of the garage, and she saw Jack Lorne stumble—" "What was Nettie doin' back there—or," he amended hastily, "hadn't she gone, or what?" "She'd come back for her pocketbook, she said. She," Mrs. Carr said, "one of those women who always strews things so she can have a legitimate excuse to return and stand outside the door and find out what's being said about her after she went. Anyway, Nettie started for home, but returned in time to see Pam dashing off, and Nettie was sure that Pam hadn't dashed into Octagon House."

"I ain't sure but what Nettie shouldn't be forcibly restrained. Go on." "Well, that floor plan—it's simply fascinating to the police. All the doors, closets, all alike, and everything they were banging the wall for hideaways, or secret panels, or something. Timmy had to go down and stop them from moving the coal in the cellar. Asey drew a deep breath. Pam hadn't told him exactly where she had put the ambergris, but he felt sure it must be in the cellar. (Copyright, 1938, Phoebe Atwood Taylor) Tomorrow: Pam disappears.

Gran And Emma A HORN blew outside. "Who's that?" Asey asked. "Oh, it's Gran," Timothy said. "She thought she'd better not come in, she has Emma with her, Emma Goldman. Her cat. It's a red Persian," he added in explanation. "Do you mean that your grand-

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



International Soldier Charles Lee got his first commission as a major at the age of 30 when in 1761, he was appointed major of the 103rd Foot Regiment in the British army. He is said to have received a commission when 11 years old, but his name first appears in military records on April 9, 1746, when he was appointed an ensign in his father's regiment. Lee served in the British army in America under command of Gage. He was at Fort Duquesne during the disastrous Braddock campaign, and commanded a regiment (44th Grenadier) and was wounded at Ticonderoga and was present at the capture of Niagara. After winning his appointment as

major, Lee served in the same capacity on the staff of the Portuguese army, being present at the brilliant affair at Villa Velha in 1762. In 1764, Lee was appointed a major-general in the Polish army, having become interested in establishing military colonies along the Wabash and Illinois rivers in the United States. Two years later he accompanied the Polish legation to Constantinople, where he was appointed an honorary general in the Turkish army. In 1769, strange as it seems, Lee went to Warsaw from America, and there fought against the Turks! Lee became interested in America's bid for independence, and in 1773 returned to the new world. He resigned his British commission in 1775 and was appointed major-general in the Continental army by congress. His rank was second from that of Washington himself. Lee was suspended from command in 1778 for one year, in spite of his brilliant fighting, for certain charges directed against him.

Lost and Found Department A communication from N. H. Slack, Knowlton, Quebec, golf fan, relates this amusing coincidence: "I lost my cigarette lighter on the golf course one day last summer and on the following day drove a ball into the rough, which I also had done on the previous day on the same hole. When I found my ball it was lying an inch away from the lighter!"

Tomorrow: Are Slavs slaves?

OAK GROVE UNIT TO INSTALL WEDNESDAY OAK GROVE, June 7.—(Sp.)—Oak Grove extension unit will meet at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the school at which time the new officers for next year will be installed. All members are urged to attend.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy Accepts the Challenge!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Ben's Bulletin!

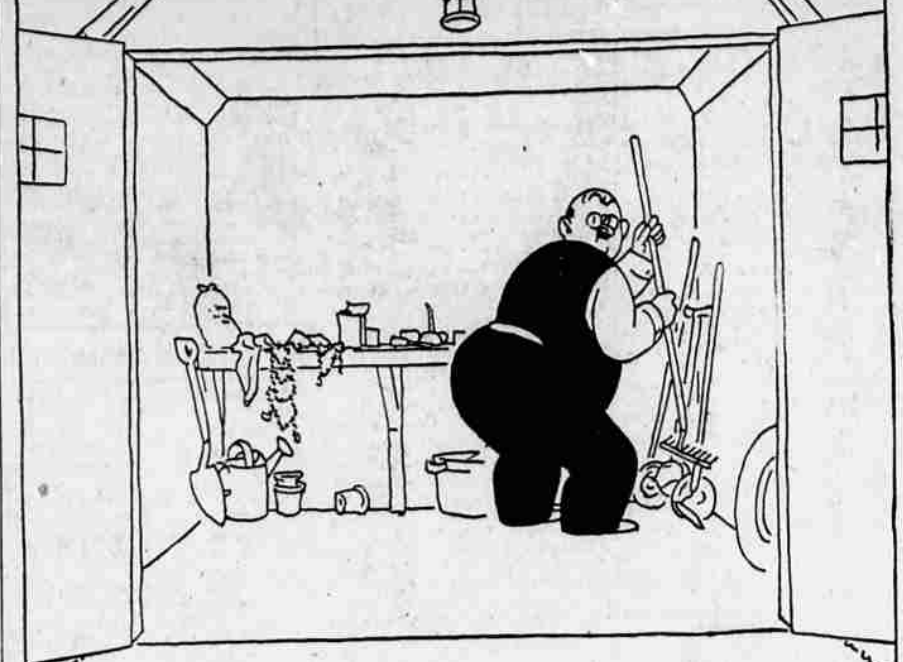


THE NEBBS—His Brother



SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



GLUYAS WILLIAMS (Copyright, 1938, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

SMATTER POI

By C M PAYNE



Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

TACOMA FACTORIES DESTROYED BY FIRE

TACOMA, June 7.—(AP)—Two Tacoma factories were burned and a trolley bridge damaged Sunday night in a general alarm fire that taxed the city's fire-fighting forces and did damage estimated at more than \$200,000. The flames leveled the Tacoma Beach and Door Company plant, spread to the Pioneer Sand and Gravel company and licked at the approaches of the newly constructed 15th street bridge over main line railroad tracks. Ashes, sparks and burning material were scattered over a large area in the south end of the city, some of it falling three miles away. Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

Traffic Safety Play Given

SALEM, June 7.—(AP)—Dean Jackson of Lane county was awarded Secretary of State Shell's first prize today in a traffic safety play writing contest for Oregon 4-H club members. Helen Marguerite Michael, also a member of the Lane county club, took second place. The winning play will be broadcast Wednesday at 12:15 p. m. over station KOAC, Corvallis.

Mrs. Jas. Roosevelt Subs For First Lady

WASHINGTON, June 7.—(AP)—Mrs. James Roosevelt, daughter-in-law of President and Mrs. Roosevelt, substituted for the first lady today at the annual White House garden party for Disabled War Veterans. Earlier, it had appeared that the