

# OCTAGON USE

BY PHOEBE ATWOOD AND LOR

Unscrupulous Mar... whose husband's post office mural has aroused Quanonet, is murdered by a left handed blow from her sister's knife. Asey Mayo, Cape Cod detective, learns certain facts. Pam Frye tells him she found \$50,000 worth of ambergris which Marina tried to claim, and hid it after discovering the murder. She disappears from Asey's house realizing that an unknown person, who smokes Turkish tobacco, is trailing her to learn the whereabouts of the ambergris. Agreeable Tim Carr, a boarder at the Frye's Octagon House, is left handed, smokes Turkish tobacco, and hated Marina in New York. Gobby Aunt Nettie Hobbs is accusing Pam killed her sister.

"Well, they say someone that was pictured in that mural got mad, an' went for Jack Lorne."

"But they didn't kill him. They killed Marina."

Jennie nodded. "That's just it Jack Lorne's a good painter, least-ways he was when he first come to town. You could tell what he meant to paint, in those days. After Marina married him, he begun to paint this horrid stuff where folks' faces were the same size as their stomachs, or their heads like pins. He did the nicest picture of the lily once. I remember that. Last summer I saw his things in the exhibition, an' they was all mud flats an' dung heaps. Stuff like that."

"An' you think Marina made the change in him?" Asey asked.

"It's not that so much, but—well people did some thinkin' an' they thought about Jack Lorne. Nobody likes him, but he ain't what you call bad. He isn't so horrid. Asey just sort of slow thinkin' if you know what I mean. Not stupid, but slow. Folks wonder if he thought up them cartoons like—all by him self, see? An' the way some folks figure it this. Suppose someone who's been painted in that mural got mad at Jack Lorne, an' he thought it out, an' decided Marina

### Chapter 13

**Another Motive**

Asey drew a deep breath. "Pam an' Nettie," he said, "they're sort of cousins. Is that it? Jennie, how in the world do you happen to know all that? You reeled it off like you'd been sayin' it every day for thirty years."

"It'd be peculiar if I didn't



"Would they send people," Jennie asked, "like G-men?"

know," his cousin said, "considerin' that phone's rung steady since six this mornin'. Oh—an' did you hear about Roddy? Roddy Strutt?"

"What's that fellow done now? Smashed up another car or another boat?"

"It's a plane this time. He got a new one yesterday. Seems some friends of his had their plane down, too, an' they was goin' back to New York in theirs, an' nothin' would do but Roddy had to trawl 'em in his. Went as far as Providence, to some airport or something. Comin' home, he insisted on flyin' the plane himself—wouldn't let him land. He landed. He landed it bang down in Quanonet Depot Square in the middle of the night, they say, an' I don't know how many cars he hurt, or folks either. Seems if everybody was hurt but Roddy—ain't that always the way? Oh, an' did you hear about the mural?"

put Jack up to it—you see what I mean?"

Asey nodded. It was exactly the same sort of thing that Pam Frye had brought up during their conversation on those pink granite post office steps the day before.

**'Gallivantin' And Traipsin'**

"THERE'S also another side," he remarked, "now I consider it S'posed Jack Lorne begins to realize what a hornet's nest he's stirred up with his mural. An' how the caricatures Marina put him up to are the things that are the most horrid, I wonder if he'd be mad enough—it don't seem so."

"If he thought that, Marina'd of talked him out of it right away," Jennie said. "She's talked him out of lots and lots of things. Why, he loved her, they say. He even thought she was faithful to him, think of that! An' her gallivantin' and traipsin' around with every Tom, Dick and Harry. This year it's been that boob Roddy Strutt. They say that's how Jack got to do that mural."

"Did you hear about the minister bein' in it—his face? Folks say they're pretty mad about that in Quanonet. He does have a mole on his nose, but no one thinks anything about it, an' he's a real good man. In the mural, it's awful. Seems they got all sorts of folks in it. An' horrid, too. Horrid drawings stuck onto horrid people doing horrid things. They're pretty mad in Quanonet. I—well, you mustn't tell about it, an' he's a real good man, but I did hear. Asey, that some of the folks was so mad, they was goin' to do somethin' to that mural. Hurt it."

"You can't blame anyone," Asey said, "for a perfectly natural human reaction; on the other hand, you want to sort of point out that it's government property, an' the government ain't had no sense of humor for a long time."

"I seen it," Asey said succinctly.

"You mean they'd send people," Jennie demanded, "like G-men?"

"They might, if it happened to strike 'em that way. Myself, I'd think it sort of funny, but the people that matter might consider it the defacin' of government property."

"D'you really think it's true what they say about the murder?" Jennie asked. "About what really happened?"

Asey admitted that he didn't know what they said.

**'Slow Thinking'**

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Out in his garage, Asey surveyed his long, gleaming Porter roadster. Yesterday that car had caused no commotion in the town of Quanonet, but today it undeniably would. Any number of people who didn't actually know him, would recognize him by the car, and by his familiar hat and jacket. Once he was recognized, he'd be surrounded, and then Hanson would come. On the whole, it seemed wiser not to be Asey Mayo.

(Continued from 1938, Phoebe Atwood Taylor)

**MEETING CALLED HERE FOR EXPLANATION NEW GRAIN INSURANCE PLAN**

Corvallis, June 11.—(AP)—A series of 16 county and district meetings to explain details of the new government wheat crop insurance plan was announced by Clyde Kiddie, state supervisor of crop insurance in the AAA office at Oregon State college. Members of the extension service will assist in holding the meetings which start June 14 and continue to July 1.

In the major wheat areas one public meeting will be held in each county, while in other sections of the state district meetings will be held for county committees, county agents and assistants who will in turn pass on the information to growers.

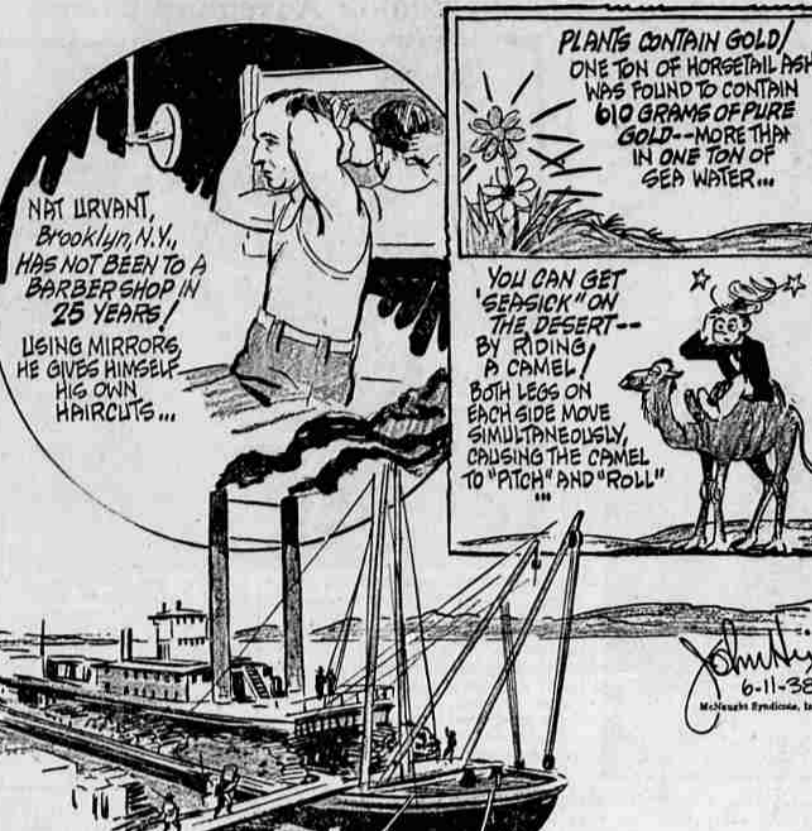
**KITCHEN GARDEN LOCKJAW HAZARD**

DEL MONTE, CALIF., June 11.—(AP)—Your own garden—if animal fertilizer is used—might be more of a hazard for contracting lockjaw than wounds suffered in falls on the streets or scratches from rusty nails.

Dr. Karl Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research at the University of California, told the American Academy of Pediatrics yesterday that lockjaw, known to medical science as tetanus, is almost as widespread in the United States as diphtheria.

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



**THE FAR WEST**  
Missouri River steamer  
COVERED 1000 MILES FROM THE HEAD OF THE LITTLE BIG HORN TO BISMARCK, N.D. IN 54 HOURS--A RECORD NEVER EQUALED IN THE HISTORY OF STEAMBOATING ON THE MISSOURI SYSTEM!  
SHE CARRIED 52 MEN WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE OF THE LITTLE BIG HORN...  
-1876-

Run of the Far West Made under the most trying circumstances, the run of the Far West, Missouri River steamer, of 1,000 miles in 54 hours, for 62 years has stood as a record along the Mississippi's greatest tributary.

The Far West in 1876 had been chartered by the Government to carry supplies to a military expedition at the head of navigation—in the region of the Little Big Horn. The steamer was in command of Captain Grant Marsh.

Unknown to the ship's officers, the massacre of the Little Big Horn had just taken place; the immortal "last stand" of General Custer had ended in disaster.

Up the Missouri to the Yellowstone; up the Yellowstone into the Big Horn and from there into the Little Big Horn churned the Far West. Never before had Captain Marsh penetrated so far into the region his ship was named after. No steamer before his had ever gone so far.

Finally, shortly before arriving, word of the tragedy reached Captain Marsh. Racing against great difficulties—treacherous sandbars, innumerable snags and tortuous river bends—he plunged on through the wilderness.

His men cut grass along the river banks and improvised mattresses on the decks for the wounded men he would have to take back 1,000 miles to Bismarck. Reaching the headwater, Marsh took on wood and his cargo of 52 wounded and dying men.

At daylight on June 30, 1876, he lifted anchor and began a race against death. The first 83 miles to the mouth of the Big Horn were covered without accident, sailing under full steam. There he was forced to lay over until July 3 to ferry General Gibbon's wagon train over the river.

From there it was better than 900 miles to Bismarck. At 5:00 P. M. on the 3rd Captain Marsh again headed down stream. All night long the steamer plunged through the darkness under full steam, an unheard of practice on so dangerous a route. After two more stops, the Far West safely reached Bismarck at 11:00 P. M. of July 5, ending a 1,000-mile trip in 52 hours, a record that stands today.

**AGE PENSION ADVOCATES SLATE STATE CONCLAVE**

CORVALLIS, Ore., June 11.—(UP)—Old-age pension advocates from all parts of Oregon will gather here for a state convention June 19.

Plans for the convention were made by directors of the Townsend National Recovery Plan, Inc. and the Oregon State Recovery Plan, Inc. Both organizations have divorced themselves from the old Townsend organization and are dedicated to the "promotion of the principles involved in the Townsend plan rather than the glorification of any individual."

Eugene Supervisor Named  
EUGENE, June 11.—(AP)—The school board announced the election of W. H. Dutton, principal of the Arizona State Teachers college training school at Temple, as supervisor of the Eugene school system.

Phone 542. We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.

**TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy Capitulates!**



**BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—First Treatment**

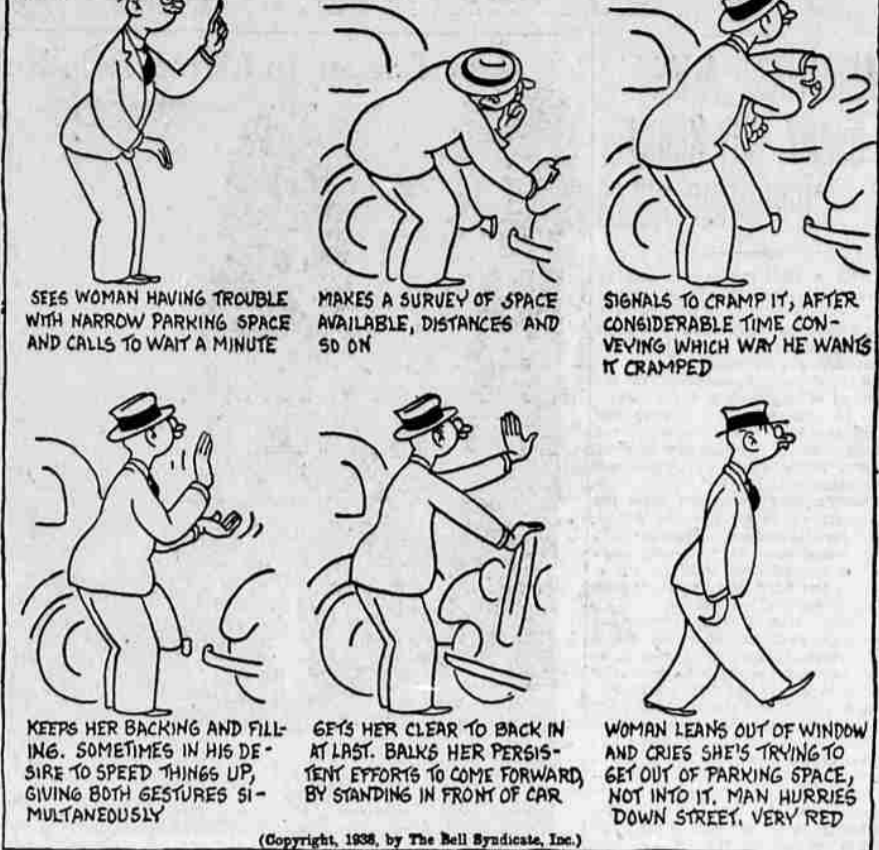


**THE NEBBS—What Do You Expect?**

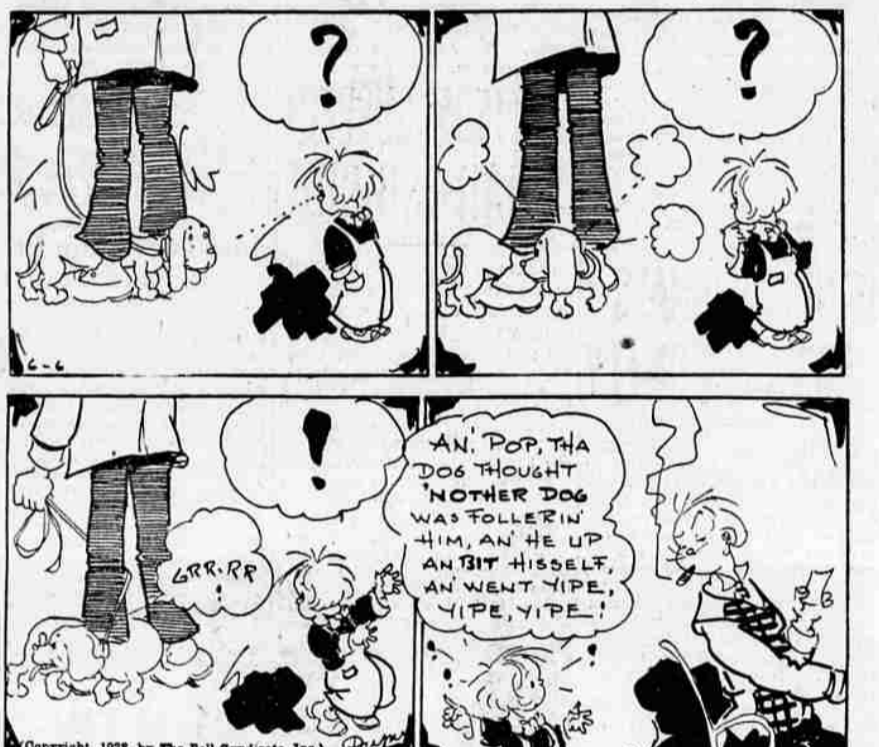


## PARKING ASSISTANT

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



**S MATTER POE** By O. M. PAYNE



By HAL FORREST



By EDWIN ALGER



By SOL HESS

