

# OCTAGON HOUSE

BY PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR

The Story So Far: Unscrupulous Marina Lorne, whose husband's post office mural has aroused Quoniam, is murdered by a left handed blow from her sister's knife. Pam Frye appeals to Asey Mayo, Cape Cod detective, telling him she found \$50,000 worth of ambergris which Marina tried to claim, and hid it after discovering the murder. Pam leaves Asey's house because an unknown person, who smokes Turkish tobacco, is trailing her to learn the whereabouts of the ambergris. Asey discovers that agreeable Tim Carr, a boarder at the Frye's Octagon House, is left handed, smokes Turkish tobacco, and hated Marina in New York; wealthy Roddy Strutt smashed a new plane in the room next to Asey's; Hobbs swears Pam is the murderer.

### Chapter 15

#### Nettie's Two Visitors

"YOU lie!" the woman said angrily.

"I lie? You mean, you lie!" Nettie embarked on a shrill tirade.

"So," Asey said softly. "So!"

He put down his paint cans and looked critically at the ell.

Its original brown had faded through the years to a particularly unpleasant shade of greyish-red, with which Asey was not prepared to cope. But whoever owned the building, Asey decided, should be glad to have anyone touch up those bare spots.

Before Nettie finished her speech, Asey was standing on an empty packing case just beyond the window, energetically painting the ell with his nice green paint.

"Are you quite through?" the woman asked rather warily. "I should think you would be. Now, before you get second wind, let me sum things up. I've appealed to your family pride. After all, you're a relation of Pam's. I've appealed to your common decency. I've appealed to everything anyone can appeal to, and you're adamant. Now, I'm going to point out several items. In the first place, if you were actually in any position to view this murder—if you really were in, or near, or outside the garage last night, and if you didn't stop Pam from killing Marina—does it occur to you that you're an accessory after the fact?"

"How did I know she was going to? I just followed her—"

"So you're following her now, are you?" the woman interrupted.

"In the original version, you simply sat in Octagon House and peered through the window and saw her run toward Lorne's garage. Little item there, by the way. The only window from which you might possibly have seen in that direction, from the living room, is that awful thing of colored purple glass. And no one ever saw through that. Did that occur to you, Nettie? Because the police are shortly going to have it pointed out to them."

"You're trying to shield a murderer!" Nettie yelled. "That's what I wouldn't wonder if you weren't hiding Pam Frye! And what if I am a cousin of hers? I'm only a fifth cousin!"

"Oyster Bay," Asey murmured, "versus Hyde Park."

"And besides," Nettie went on, "I have a higher duty. I have. It's my duty to expose a murderer, even if she is a relation! Some laws is higher than others. Blood may be thicker than water—"

"But not when you can pan gold out of the water? Isn't that it, Nettie? Oh, how you must have counted on marrying Aaron Frye!"

Whoever this woman was, Asey thought, she was playing Nettie like a banjo.

"What about you?" Nettie returned. "Didn't you expect to marry Jack Lorne, until Marina took him away from you? Didn't you want to paint that mural in the post office, Peggy Boone?"

Boone, Asey thought, Pam had said something about modeling for someone named Boone.

"You Vindictive Thing!"

"Of course I wanted to paint that mural, Nettie. So did several hundred other people. But you're wandering from the point again. The point is, you didn't see Pam Frye last night, because you didn't even look out of the window; or if you looked out of the regular windows, you couldn't possibly have seen the Lorne garage. Or if you looked out of the purple glass window, you just plain couldn't have seen. That's the point. You suspected nothing at the time, you suspected nothing when you left. By sheer chance you left your pocketbook—and it's the consensus that you never forgot your pocketbook before. You usually have it gripped tightly to your capacious bosom. And when you realized what you'd popped into, you saw your chance to take a whack at Pam, and then you realized the gold in them thar hills. All right, Nettie. But you've got your last nugget."

"What do you mean? Where are you going?" Nettie sounded more annoyed than alarmed. As Jennie Mayo had remarked that morn-

ing, there was nothing... enjoyed much more than a fight. "I'm going, my little pickle lime to the cops. And to see some reporters I know. You actually don't know a single thing about this murder. The world will think about this murder, and very shortly the world will know just what sort of filthy hoax you are. Whom the press makes, they can also break. I thought even the stupidest of fools had done that out. And you, Nettie, are going to be broken. And I'm going to wield the first axe—"

"You vindictive thing, you!"

"Yes, vindictive is the word for Peggy," came the prompt retort. "I'm one of the most viciously and violently vindictive people I happen to know. And I happen also to cherish Pam Frye. And for two cents I'd slap your teeth and jump heavily on them. Goodbye!"

"Goodbye yourself!" Nettie yelled.

"And you wait till I tell the reporters what you've said and how you've threatened me! Threatened! Wait'll they hear that, and then see how much good your lies'll do to shield Pam Frye!"

When Peggy Boone came out to the yard, Asey was innocently stirring paint in the far corner.

"So she's having the store beautified, is she?" Peggy Boone's cheeks were flaming and her eyes shot sparks. "Beautified by the application of a coat of paint. That's the way the News will report it this week. Our esteemed citizen, Nettie, is beautifying her store by the application of a coat of paint! It sickens me!"

"Wa-el," Asey rather overdid his Gape drawl, "it needs paint."

"So does my house, and so, probably does yours. But we don't yap packs of lies to the newspapers to get it done!"

"You seem sort of sore."

"Sore? Do you think you ever saw a mad woman? Well, the maddest woman you ever knew was a cooling dove compared to me. I could kill that stinker!"

"Keep Me Out O' It!"

Asey felt for his pipe, but that was home in his other coat, along with his driving license. Feeling a little thwarted, he sat down and considered.

Twenty-one years ago Mrs. George Wieland's husband made her a present of two pairs of canaries and started her off on the pleasant career of a bird doctor, which she has followed in her Philadelphia home ever since.

What started as a hobby became a business for Mrs. Wieland, when a few years after her husband gave her the birds, he was forced to quit work because of an automobile accident.

Mrs. Wieland styles herself as a "bird chiropractist," because her work consists mainly of trimming birds' toenails to keep them from tripping in their cages and breaking their legs.

When such an accident occurs, she answers hurry up calls at any hour of the day and late at night. With a tiny surgical kit, she speeds to the scene of the tragedy.

To perform an amputation, Mrs. Wieland applies iodine to cauterize the wound and render it senseless to pain. She then anaesthetizes the bird with two drops of whiskey in water and snips off the leg. In about two weeks the bird is "as good as new."

Other duties of Philadelphia's bird doctor include boarding birds whose owners go away on trips, sealing their legs; cutting off tumors, and curing colds.

"Bird owners often transmit their own colds to their pets by allowing the birds to kiss them," says Mrs. Wieland who used to be a practical nurse.

She always has at least 150 birds in her home, and during the past 21 years has manicured and treated thousands of them for varied disorders.

Anti-Camel Law

Nevada's legislators in 1875 were called upon to pass a law against camels running loose on the state highways.

The unusual situation arose from the fact that several camels had escaped from a "Camel Corps" unit. The U. S. government in 1850's had attempted to install on the western deserts. These were reported seen at various times and places in Arizona as a law, was passed to "eliminate" them.

Tomorrow: How many ways can "scissors" be spelled?

## 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 BIRD DOCTOR!

MRS. GEORGE WIELAND, Philadelphia, IS A PROFESSIONAL BIRD MANICURIST! IN 21 YEARS SHE HAS TREATED THOUSANDS OF CANARIES, PARROTS, ETC., TRIMMING THEIR NAILS AND BEAKS, CURING COLDS, CORRECTING DIETS AND PERFORMING AMPUTATIONS...

6-14-36

RAINS DISSOLVE SNOWS! WHEN GEORGE SNOW, FAYWOOD, NEB., DIVORCED HAZEL SNOW, HE WAS REPRESENTED BY LAWYERS RAIN AND RAIN! -1937-

CAMELS ARE PROHIBITED FROM RUNNING AT LARGE ON NEVADA'S STATE HIGHWAYS BY AN ACT OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, PASSED IN 1875...

AL 1000—Pittsburgh Pirates catcher WENT 128 GAMES WITHOUT HAVING A PAGED BALL! (A RECORD) -1937 SEASON-

## SUBURBAN HEIGHTS By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



TRAFFIC IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CAME TO A COMPLETE STANDSTILL WHEN FRED PERLEY AND THE MAN ACROSS THE STREET, BACKING OUT OF THEIR DRIVEWAYS WHILE WAVING GOOD-BYE TO THEIR WIVES, LOCKED FENDERS

6-14 (Copyright, 1935, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.) GLUYAS WILLIAMS

## S'MATTER POI By C M PAYNE

WHAT THAT?

NOW-W, LET ME SEE? H-M-M? LET ME SEE?

OH, SHUCKS

WHAT WAS THAT PIECE I JUST PLAYED ON MY INSTRUMENT? I CAN'T THINK OF IT!

6-8 (Copyright, 1935, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

### 4076 WAGE BENEFITS AWAITING COMMISSION

SALEM, June 14.—(AP)—Only 4,076 claims for benefits are before the unemployment compensation commission, 1,051 having been filed last week.

More than \$3,500,000 has been paid to unemployed workers since the law became effective January 1. The 308,000 checks averaged \$11.44.

Another Horn

SACRAMENTO, (AP)—Articles of incorporation have been filed with the secretary of state for Los Angeles Boosters, which its directors announced, would work for the advantage of Los Angeles and the welfare of its people.

WINDOW GLASS—We sell window glass and will replace your broken windows reasonably. Trowbridge Cabinet Works.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Wurtel Disappears!

ON A TEST HOP WITH THE NEW WURTEL PROPELLER, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO INCREASE THE SPEED OF THE MERCURY AN ADDITIONAL THOUSAND REVS, TOMMY OPENED THE THROTTLE TO TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE MILES PER HOUR. WHEN AN INSTINCTIVE WARNING PENETRATED HIS BRAIN, SOMETHING WAS WRONG. SOME UNSEEN FORCE WAS TELLING HIM TO LAND THE SHIP!

MAYBE IT'S JUST A HUNCH, BUT I'M GOING TO SIT 'ER DOWN...

AND PLAY SAFE

I CLOCKED YOU, SKIPPER! YOU WERE PRACTICALLY STANDING STILL! ANYTHING WRONG? NOT YET!

RUSTY, TAKE THAT PROP OVER TO THE FACTORY AND PUT IT ON THE BLOCK!

SKEETS, WHERE'S THAT MISTER WURTEL?

WHY... HE WUZ HERE JUST A MINUTE AGO, BUT...

6-9

### BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Some Progress!

SIX DAYS HAVE GONE BY. MEANTIME, RUSTY HAS ADMINISTERED DR. JED KILEY'S "SUNSHINE PELLETS" THRICE DAILY TO THE TURKEY HE'S EXPERIMENTING ON, AND—

GOSH, DOC KILEY'S VITAMIN PILLS SURE ARE WORKIN' ON THAT BIRD! GUESS I'LL LET BEN HAVE A LOOK AT HIM NOW.

BEN, SHUSH THAT TURKEY OVER THIS WAY--ON ACCOUNT O' ME WANTIN' TO COMPARE HIM WITH ANOTHER ONE--

THE ONE YOU'RE EXPERIMENTING ON?

LOOK, BEN! THEY WERE BOTH THE SAME SIZE A WEEK AGO! IT'S THE PILLS!

WOW!

6-10

### THE NEBBS—Meet the Brother

WELL, HERE'S LITTLE OBIE SLIDER, MANAGER OF THE NOYAGE WATER DEPARTMENT, RETURNING FROM HIS VACATION TO THE CITY.

MR. SLIDER, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY BROTHER STEVE

HE DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME YOU WERE HIS BROTHER, STEVE. OTHER THAN YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTELLIGENCE THERE IS A GOOD RESEMBLANCE

I'M DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU, SIR, EVEN IF YOU DID DETECT A RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN US. AFTER LOOKING AT HIM, I'D HOPED THERE WAS NONE

OH, I'M SORRY I MENTIONED IT

GIVE ME THIS GUN, NEBB, AND A DECK OF CARDS AND IN 15 MINUTES THERE'LL BE A NEW OWNER HERE

THE TROUBLE WITH YOUR BROTHER IS HE ISN'T FORTIFIED AGAINST INTELLIGENCE BECAUSE HE THINKS HE HAS IT ALL

THAT'S WHAT PA USED TO SAY. HE HAD A GOOD A HEAD FROM THE OUTSIDE AS YOU COULD EXPECT

6-13

By HAL FORREST

By EDWIN ALGER

By SOL HES

### ROOM FOR ALL AT GRANGE CONCLAVE

KIAMATH FALLS, June 14.—(AP)—Grangers from every county in Oregon are meeting at the state convention here well past the 1000 mark this afternoon. The number of visitors is expected to reach 1500 by mid-week.

Convention machinery, however was running smoothly. A. L. Morrison, in charge of housing, said his committee was prepared to provide accommodations of some sort for every convention visitor, the only difficulty being in meeting the demand for campground cabins.

Many grangers brought their own camping supplies, and a tent city has sprung up on the southern fringe of Kiamath Falls.

### Turn Over Capitol To State June 21

SALEM, June 13.—(AP)—Contractors will turn over Oregon's new \$2,500,000 capitol to the state on June 21 when the capitol reconstruction commission meets here.

The building will be occupied by the departments using their present furniture. New furniture will be delivered in September.

### STUDENT CONFESSES PART IN BURGLARY

EUGENE, June 14.—(AP)—Don Davis, 20, University of Oregon student, has admitted complicity in a recent Eugene burglary. Sheriff C. A. Swartz said. Another student, Clarence Sebastian, was arrested earlier last week at San Jose, Calif., in