

# OCTAGON HOUSE

BY PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR

The Story So Far: Asey Mayo, Cape Cod detective, is investigating the murder of Marina Lorne, whose husband's post office mural has aroused Quanonet. She was killed by a left handed blow from her sister's knife. Pam Frye is innocent as well as agreeable Tim Carr, boarder at the Frye's Octagon House. Marina was married to Tim, unknown to Jack Lorne, and also had played around with wealthy Roddy Strutt. Then the barn is set on fire; Asey, Tim and Pam's father are knocked out, and two troopers disappear. The problem uppermost in Asey's mind is a \$50,000 lump of ambergris which Pam found the day of the murder and Aaron Frye hid in the barn. He is convinced that the ambergris was not in the barn when it burned down.

### Chapter 31

#### Tracking The Troopers

"WELL," Doc Cummings asked, "what do you make of things, Asey?"

"I don't. If you want to know the truth," Asey said, "we've got one shrewd an' canny soul who set the barn on fire to set us runnin' around locatin' the ambergris for him. An' we got a violent number—well, I don't know what he's after, unless it's just a series of punchin' bags. Maybe his got broke an' he's huntin' a substitute."

see him this afternoon. After him we go to Roddy. In one sense, I don't want to wait one bit. I've got a feelin' Roddy might try beatin' it, though I don't think he'll dare to. An' on the other hand, I don't think I'd ever get the truth from Roddy unless I got somethin' solid on him first. If I get Brigham's story, I think it'll be worth the wait."

"Brigham," Cummings said. "Oh, yes, I'd forgotten that pilot. So you're going to let Roddy slide?"

"I'm goin' let him sizzle," Asey said, "on the theory that the longer he sizzles, the better it'll be when we do get him. You go see Aaron. Doc, I want to run to the village an' find out how Hanson's comin' on with his trooper hunt."

"Where can those fellows be?"

"I wish I knew!" Asey said. "I wish I knew!"

As he went out on the back porch, Tim Carr drove up in his little coupe.

"I've been helping the bloodhounds, but there's no sign of O'Malley and Shorty," he reported. "Hanson is now little better than a psychopath."

"How's the reporters?"

"Gorging themselves on shore dinners at that roadhouse near the junction. They ought to be logey and waterlogged for hours to come. I mean, you can eat just so many steamed clams and wash them down with just so much beer be-

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



### TODAY IS INDEPENDENCE DAY!

"THE SECOND DAY OF JULY, 1776, WILL BE THE MOST MEMORABLE EPOCH IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA... IT OUGHT TO BE SOLEMNIZED WITH POMP AND PARADE... GUNS, BONFIRES, AND ILLUMINATIONS, FROM THIS TIME FORWARD, FOREVERMORE..."

John Adams  
(Member of Declaration of Independence Committee) July 3, 1776...  
THE COLONIES VOTED THEIR INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 2 -- NOT JULY 4, 1776!

A 12-FOOT WILL-- WAS FILED WITH THE ALAMEDA (CAL.) COUNTY CLERK, DISPOSING OF THE \$125,000 ESTATE OF E. L. BULLOCK... -1935-

LE HAVRE, FRANCE WAS BELGIUM'S CAPITAL DURING THE WORLD WAR!

"BAMBOO" WATER SLEDS -- Chekiang River, China, ARE USED TO FLOAT BAGS OF RICE DOWNSTREAM... THEY ARE BUILT LIKE TOBOGGANS...



Tim blinked as the speedometer swung around the dial.

"But what about the third person, the one who took the ambergris?" Cummings asked. "That's what interests me the most. Who took it, providing they did take it before the barn was burned, and how? Why couldn't the burner have taken it before his burning?"

"Your guess," Asey said, "is every bit as good as mine about the whole business. I don't know, an' I don't know how we're goin' to find out. I just hope I get a crack at this biffer, though, before this is over with. I got a sock to repay. I want to meet up with that violent one."

Cummings laughed. "Speaking of violence, you should have seen Earl Jennings over at the hospital this morning. He was being mad with Chase, the traffic cop. There's a man that's sore at that mural--"

"Chase, you mean?"

"No, Jennings. He's a big husk, and Lorne put him in as industry mending the Leaking Pipes of Civilization. Jennings is taking it as a personal affront, and an insult to his business. Particularly as an insult to his business--"

"Are you talking about Jennings?" Pam passing through the hall stopped long enough to stick her head in the door. "I thought so. He was simply enraged--I think myself that's why he did such a rotten job on the plumbing over at the cottage, as a sort of revenge. You know, that bathroom overflows copiously and hideously."

"An' no one," Asey said sincerely, "could think of a much worse revenge than that. It occurs to me that Lorne ain't goin' to have an easy time gettin' his vipe an' figtree repaired."

"Not to speak of his grocery bill," Pam said. "His credit is nil--look, I'm going to yank some carrots and things for dinner. I'll be in the garden if you want me."

"Waterlogged"

"JERRY CHASE kidded Jennings about the leaking pipes," Cummings went on with his story, "and they had to be forcibly separated. Asey, what about Roddy, the menaced? I think you ought to see him."

"Yup."

"Well, why don't you, then?" Cummings demanded.

"I'm waitin' to talk with that pilot of his, Brigham, first," Asey explained. "They told me last night at the hospital that I could

fore--what's the matter with you?"

"Timothy, my son," Asey said, "crawl back into your little low backed car. I just had a brain wave."

Sea Hunt

"YOU'VE had something," Tim agreed. "This rosy glow--look, you don't think you know where the troopers went to, do you?"

"I don't know where they went to," Asey said, "but I bet you \$10 I know where they are now--let me drive, d'you mind? I'm in sort of a hurry, like. Waterlogged that's the answer. Waterlogged Hang on, Timothy."

The coupe backed down the driveway at a speed that made Timothy blink behind his glasses. Before they reached the corner, he was gripping the door strap with both hands.

"The right rear tire," Tim remarked in what he hoped was a conversational tone, "is quite old and very eccentric."

"I," Asey said. "Handles nice, for a little car, don't she? Well, had one at the Porter testis grounds, an' it run circles around sixteen. If only they'd stand up--"

"That's exactly my point about the rear tire," Tim interrupted quickly. "If only I'd stand up when you go over fifty-five. But no matter what tubes you put in it always seems to blow--"

"Don't seem to be blowin' now," Asey said.

Tim watched the speedometer needle swing around the dial. At least, he thought, if the tire stood up, he could truthfully report to his grandmother that those last figures were not the fakes they had always imagined.

"What about the troopers?" he asked, suddenly remembering that the speed of the car and the stamina of the rear tire were not, after all, the principal issues.

"Oh," Asey said, "you gimme the idea when you talked about the reporters bein' waterlogged. I just occurs to me that we done a lot of land searchin', but we sort of ignored the water. Pretty all of me not to think of it before. There's so much water around."

"So we're going to sea hunt, ar we?" Timothy sounded very dubi-ous.

Will Asey find the troopers? Continued tomorrow.

## ENGLAND EXTENDS DEFENSES IN EAST

SINGAPORE (UP)—Now that the fortifications at Singapore, Great Britain's \$50,000,000 naval air base in the far east, are nearing completion, authorities are concentrating on the defenses of Penang.

Penang, the most northerly of the straits settlements, commands one of the entrances to the Malacca straits, through which all shipping between the Indian ocean and the China sea has to pass.

Fort Cornwallis, the historic fort in Penang built in the early days of the British settlement, is not to be modernized. The civilian population wish it to remain an open space. The

## FASCIST CHIEFS HURT IN SHOWOFF FOR DUCE

ROME July 2.—(P)—Four fascist party chiefs were injured today attempting to show Premier Mussolini their gymnastic ability.

Two federal secretaries fell on

### Independence Day.

For the past 162 years the United States has celebrated the anniversary of its birth of independence on the fourth of July--yet, strange as it seems, it was on July 2 that the American colonies voted themselves "free and independent states, absolved from all allegiance to the British crown."

July 4th, on the other hand, is merely the anniversary of the adoption of the specific document which proclaimed to the world the decision to free the New World from Old World alliances.

A daring prognostication was advanced on July 3, 1776, by John Adams, one of the committee of five appointed to draw up the declaration

and later second president of the United States. In a letter to his uncle, Adams wrote:

"Yesterday the greatest question was decided which was ever debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was nor ever will be decided among men. A resolution was passed, without one dissenting colony, that these United Colonies are, of right ought to be, free and independent states..."

"You will see, in a few days, a declaration setting forth the causes which have impelled us to this mighty revolution, and the reasons which will justify it in the sight of God and man. A plan of confederation will be taken up in a few days."

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the

history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival."

It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore."

Adams, strange as it seems, correctly forecast the observance, but missed the date by 48 hours. He died on July 4, 1826, as did Thomas Jefferson.

Monday: Was the Declaration of Independence unanimously adopted on July 4, 1776?

points of bayonets over which they were trying to jump from a spring-board.

Another was scorched leaping through a ring of fire.

A party inspector landed on top of a tank and injured his chest.

### FUEL FROM WOOD TO RUN FRENCH TRAINS

PARIS (AP)—French gasoline-motored autorial trains will soon be powered almost exclusively by "gasogena," a fuel made from wood.

Trial runs by suburban trains have

shown railroad officials that the new fuel is practical and can be made cheaper than gasoline for such traffic.

Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 p. m.

Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

### TAILSPIN TOMMY—Mysterious Injury!

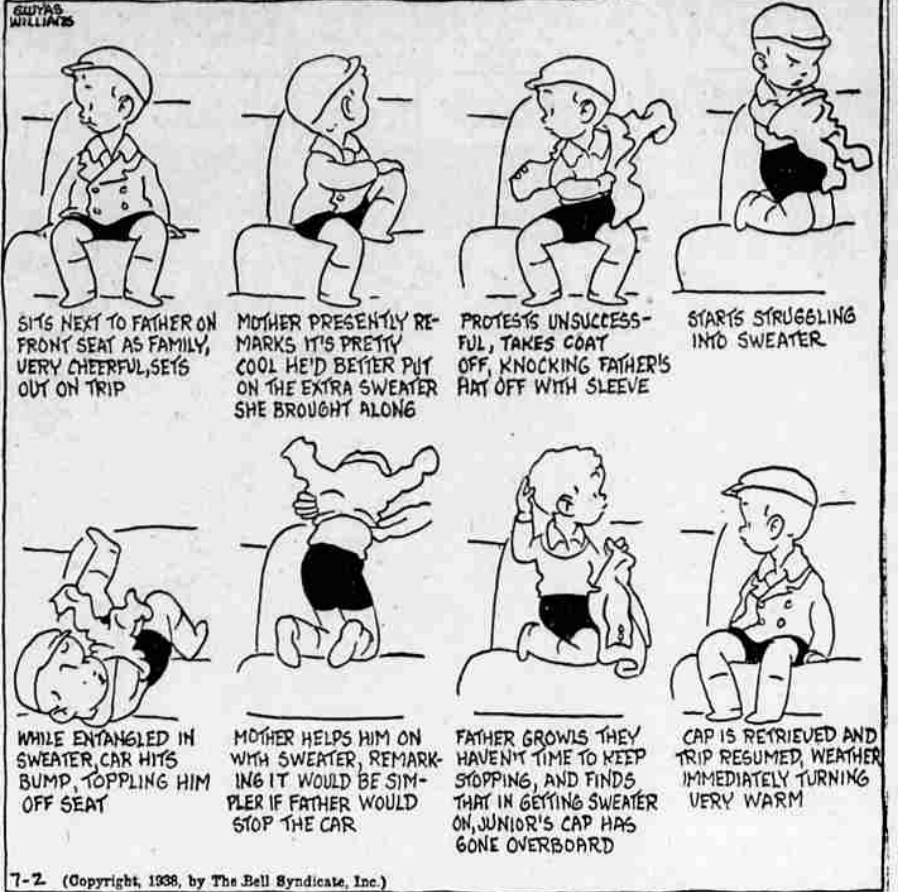


### BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—On Exhibition!



### CHANGE EN ROUTE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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### 3 MATTER FOR

By C M PAYNE



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### THE NEBBS—Legal Steps



By SOL HESS