

THE ARMY POST MURDERS

The Characters Katherine Cornish, myself, visiting Elizabeth on a mid-western Army post. Elizabeth, Colonel Wright's daughter. Adam Drew, acting commanding officer.

Yesterday: The murderer locks me in an empty room, then throws the key over the transom.

Chapter 18 Stabbed!

"I'll see you women down the stairs," Adam said heavily. "You're to wait in the library—together."

They went with him docilely enough, but Mrs. Orpington turned back once to eye me coldly. "You're staying?" she asked innocently.

I made no answer, and she seemed to expect none. Adam joined me again at the head of the stairs.

"I want your story, but not yet," he reached the door of her room and barred my way. "You stay here," he said gently. "There's no need."

He was in the girl's room a long time. As the minutes dragged by my last lingering hope died.

I leaned against the wall and wished he would never come out. When he did his mouth was grim, his eyes compassionate. He spoke one word.

"Stabbed." My eyes clung to his and he started going farther and farther away.

"I failed you," I whispered. "I killed her." The wall opposite began to lean toward me. Then the flashlight struck the floor and rolled over and over, making a crazy pattern of moving shadows.

Adam's firm hands had me by the shoulders. "Sit down—now put your head between your knees. All right? Then sit still and listen to me. What do you think you could have done? Screamed? You wouldn't have lived long enough. Heaven knows where my mind was when I left you up here alone with her. Somebody had to kill that girl. I'm glad you let yourself be told away. I'm glad you were not in that room!"

"And now let me tell you something else. I saw her. Her eyes were open. I think she was awake—I think she knew what was going to happen. And she made no outcry."

"She was—willing," I said painfully. "The poor thing—something she saw made her willing. Is that what you think?"

"That's what I think," said Adam. "Now tell me your story and try not to leave anything out." The effort of remembering steadied me. I began with my recognition of the type of that picture.

When I had finished we went back together to that empty guest room and went over it inch by inch for some betraying trace.

The evening wrap lay where I had flung it. Black velvet—voluminous, ankle length. I held it up and recognized it.

"Mrs. Flower! I noticed it this evening. It's just like her—see these long scarf ends that reach to her hem! It's one of those lush things. Made to order for the murderer—the scarf went round and round."

There was no bulb in the light socket, a fact which explained why this room had been without light so long before the rest of the house. The missing bulb was across the room on the bed.

"Man Or Woman?" ADAM said, "Here's your prostrate body," and chuckled grimly. "An army blanket rolled up and just not hidden by the bed. Quite a resourceful person, your murderer. . . . You're sure you can't tell whether it was a man or a woman?"

"How could I? I didn't even get my hands on the creature." "Think hard. Was there any perfume—tobacco, halitosis? Where were your olfactory nerves?"

"Violet," I murmured, remembering. "The wrap reeks of it—here, smell! So does Mrs. Flower." "That doesn't help any. She has an unshakable alibi for this one: she was with me."

"Where's her husband?" "I—I don't know. Haven't seen him for hours. He's O.D.—went off to inspect, didn't come back. But he's harmless—just the type of man you mislay. . . . All right, now let's see, where were we? You saw nothing, felt nothing, smelled nothing. What's left?" "Hearing. There was the heavy

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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26,370 HAMBURGERS IN 5 DAYS-- WERE SOLD AT THE JOE BURY STAND, York, Pa. FIVE STEERS WERE USED (Oct. 4-8, 1938)

HUNDREDS OF ANTILERS FORM THIS MONUMENT TO ELK SHOT BY HUNTERS (Yellowstone Nat'l Park)

SKI CHAMPION AT 7! BIRGER RUUD-- Norwegian Olympic ski champion, won his first title at 7 AND HAS PLACED IN 190 OF 200 MEETS-- WINNING 110!

Hot Ice Ice so hot it will burn your hand is the newest freak of science produced by Professor P. W. Bridgman of Harvard, who for some years has studied the peculiar action of matter under high pressures.

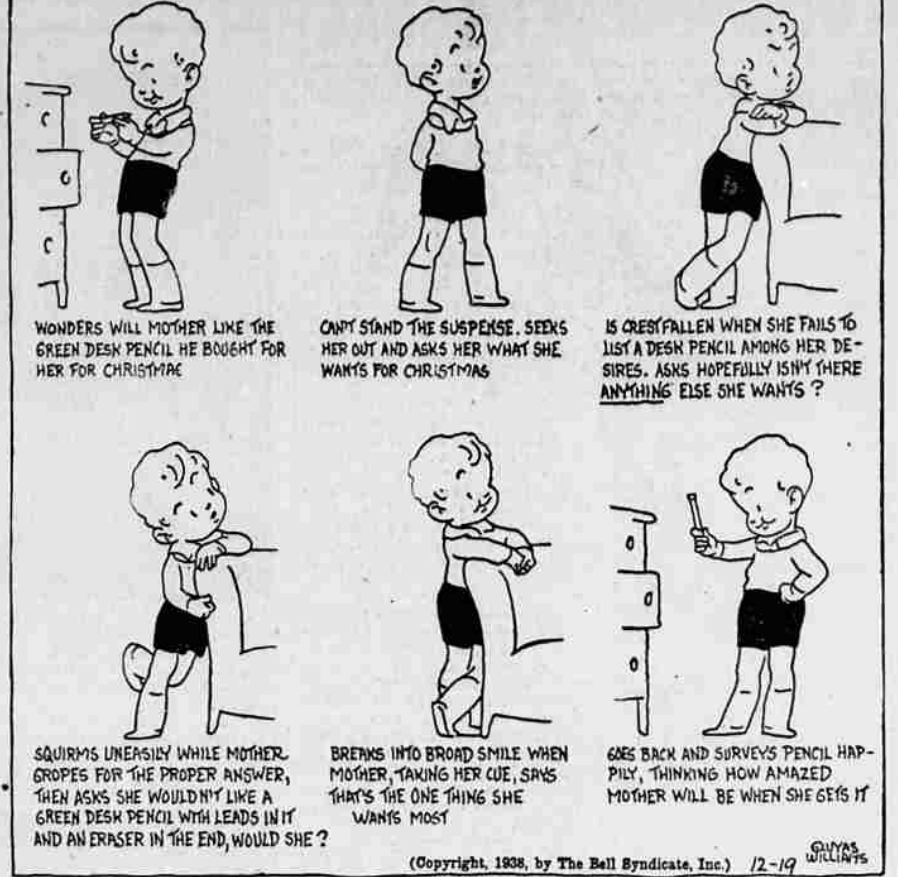
After this point Professor Bridgman found a strange thing happened. By applying a still greater pressure to the ice at a temperature lower than -22 degrees, Centigrade, the ice suddenly collapsed, losing some 20 per cent of its volume, and took on an entirely new crystalline arrangement of its molecules.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy Decides to Investigate? Escaping, by means of a thick curtain of fog, from the black pirate plane, TOMMY WINGS SOUTH-- WEST IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND THE LEGENDARY ISLE OF SKELETON KEY, WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE THE rendezvous OF THE SKY BUCCANNERS.

BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—A Trial at Least THERE'S THE WORST ONE, BOYS-- SHE LOOKS MIGHTY GOOD AN' SHE GRAZES ON THE BEST PASTURE LAND I GOT-- SHE OUGHTA BE HAPPY AN' GIVE PLENTY O' MILK, BUT SHE AIN'T AN' SHE DON'T!

THE NEBBS—And Then What? WELL, FANNY YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE MY FAMILY CREDIT FOR HAVING AT LEAST ONE GREAT GUY IN IT... MY BROTHER STEVE YES, HE IS-- WE WON'T QUARREL OVER THAT, I AT LEAST FOUND ONE NEBB WHO COULD BUY ME A MINK COAT

SURPRISE PRESENT By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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3 MATTER POI By O M PAYNE



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DEFUNCT BANK PAYS STOCKHOLDERS WHO MADE UP DEPOSITS

HEPPNER, Dec. 20.—(AP)—J. L. Gault, receiver of the Farmers and Stockgrowers National bank, proved a Santa Claus to stockholders who contributed upon their assessments under the double liability of the national banking act. They are being reimbursed for all the money paid the receivers, plus interest during the time funds were in his possession.

This is the concluding chapter of the bank and constitutes one of the most interesting liquidations of any closed national bank in the United States. After securing clearance of all liability for income tax during the receivership period, Receiver Gault recommended to the controller of the currency that all stockholders who had paid their assessments in whole or in part be reimbursed in full with interest at 6 per cent, believing that as the depositors had been reimbursed with dividends totaling 107.59 percent, the contributing stockholders should be treated in the same manner.

BULLETINS DWELL ON PEST CONTROL

CORVALLIS.—(Sp.)—Oregon vegetable gardeners and strawberry growers interested in protecting their plantings from insect damage will have the aid of two new bulletins just issued by the OBC experiment station and extension service. One is a brief folder, extension bulletin 523, entitled, "Vegetable Garden Insect Pest Control" by Don C. Mole, and B. G. Thompson, entomologists.

By HAL FORRES



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By EDWIN ALGER



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By SOL HESS

