

# The Creeping Man

by Frances Shelley Wees

YESTERDAY, Michael catches Miss Lissey mysteriously searching the woods with a magnifying glass. She angrily denounces him for "spying" on her, and tells him to find out about a gray hat left at McBrain's the night Murchison went away.

### Chapter 23

#### Talk With McBrain

IT IS possible that Michael would never have acted on that strange hint of Miss Lissey's had he not determined in any event to take Dr. McBrain into his confidence. Here was the man who must have in his possession knowledge to clear up a great deal of the mystery surrounding Edgar Murchison if only he were so inclined; a man who had already shown that he was kindly toward Murchison, level-headed and fair-minded.

At dusk that evening Michael lifted the knocker on the McBrain door. McBrain himself answered the door, in slippers and smoking jacket, the inevitable pipe in his hand.

"Come in, come in," he said heartily, holding out a velvet cushion. "It's good of you to come." "Thanks," Michael replied. "I hope you're not busy. I want to have a talk with you."

McBrain led him into a small comfortable room on the right; a man's room, with deep chairs and an air of untidiness. The newspaper was spread open on the table, and part of it lay on the floor. "You'll see how busy I am," his host said with a smile. "I was just having a smoke and finishing the paper."

He indicated a chair with a wave of his hand, and Michael sat down. "I'll come right to the point," said Michael, and looked across at McBrain, who put his pipe in his mouth, crossed his knees, and glanced up inquiringly. "You'll remember I asked you several questions about Professor Murchison the night of the Deane's party?"

"Yes," he smoothed down the fringe of hair on each side of the high white forehead. His eyes were deeply attentive. Michael hesitated. "I'm afraid I was doing something not quite polite," he said. "I was... well, I was pumping you?"

"Pumping me?" Michael leaned forward and clasped his hands between his knees. "That business about the women," he explained. "I hadn't heard anything. I was looking for information."

McBrain frowned. The wrinkles at the side of his strong face deepened. "You had some purpose, I suppose?" "Yes," he paused again. "Did it ever occur to you, Dr. McBrain, that it was rather queer of Professor Murchison, whom you knew so well, to leave as he did without a word of farewell to you, or an explanation?"

McBrain raised his eyebrows. "It did," he said quietly. "Did you ever ask his wife, or his brother, where and why he had gone?"

"A Bit Offended" IT WAS McBrain's turn to hesitate. "To tell you the truth, Forrester," he said, after a moment, "I was a bit offended. I considered that some explanation was due me, particularly as Murchison and I had planned to do a bit of research together. I didn't ask for several days, because I was huffed, and then I spoke to Duncan. I don't care much for Mrs. Murchison."

"Did he seem disturbed about anything?" "Not at all. He was a bit pre-occupied, but nothing more." "About what?" "I do not know—unless it might be money matters." "Money matters?" "His wife's extravagance was a continual source of worry to him. He mentioned then, I remember, that he would need to work all vacation to keep ahead of the game."

"He had a considerable bank balance?" "Possibly, but she planned an extensive holiday, I believe. This was not said in so many words, you know, I knew him pretty well—it was merely from a word here and there that I gather this."

"You never heard him mention any property, valuable property?" "That he owned? No. Although Murchison, level-headed and fair-minded."

"I realized that I was mistaken as soon as I spoke. His wife corrected me unconsciously the other night."

"How, Dr. McBrain?" "Happy At First" "YOU wouldn't have noticed, perhaps. It was in regard to a diamond necklace—Mrs. Deane questioned her about one. I was rather under the impression that those were diamonds, and if that is so, they must have been Murchison's property. His wife was penniless when he married her. He told me that once. But she said quite frankly that her necklace was not diamonds, so I was wrong."

"Had he told you of owning any diamonds?" "No. But I saw the necklace in question on Christmas Eve, and once or twice previously. I certainly took the stones to be diamonds. My wife and I spoke of them to each other, and wondered privately how he managed diamonds on his income. However, I was wrong."

"You say his wife was penniless. How long had they been married?" "Five or six years, I believe." "They were happy?" "They... they seemed happy when they first came."

"But not later. What caused the break, Dr. McBrain?" "He ran his long sensitive hand nervously over his hair. "I dislike this personal material," he said. "It may be very important."

"Well, then—it seems to me I noticed a rift after the Devoes came. He did not like them, and as they were her relatives, it made matters rather unpleasant."

"How does it happen that her cousin came to this University? It looks like a coincidence." "I believe that Murchison was instrumental in getting him the place."

"He had known Devoe previously, then?" "No. I think not. His credentials were good, and Mrs. Murchison spoke so highly of him that when the opening was made known, Murchison recommended Devoe."

# On the RADIO CHAINS

Where to Find Them on the Dial: Kex, Portland, 1180; KFI, 640; Los Angeles, 670; Spokane, 1470; KGO, 790; San Francisco, 490; KJW, 620; Portland, KJR, 970; Seattle, KXN, 1050; Los Angeles, KOA, 830; Denver, KOIN, 940; Portland, KOMO, 926; Seattle, KPO, 630; San Francisco, KSL, 1180; Salt Lake.

Wednesday, 8:00—Frank and Archie, KEX, KJR; Sunset Shadows, KGO; Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KFI. 9:30—Kelsey's Orch., KPO, KGW, KFI. We Present, KGO, KJR. 6:00—Beyond Reasonable Doubt, KGO, KEX, KJR; Theater, KSL, KOIN, KNX; Drama, KOMO; Musical Soiree, KFI, KGW; Safety First, KPO. 6:15—Tito the Clown, KGO; Musical Soiree, KPO. 6:30—Horse and Bugy Days, KGO, KEX; Playhouse, KPO, KFI, KGW; News, KJR. 7:00—Sketch, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Kysers Orch., KPO, KGW, KFI; Football Award, KGO, KJR, KEX. 7:30—Burns and Allen, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Adventures in Photography, KGO, KJR. 8:00—Waring's Orch., KPO; Breasing Along, KGO, KJR, KEX; Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL. 8:15—I Love a Mystery, KPO, KGW.

KFI, Lum and Abner, KSL, KNX, KOIN. 8:30—Whiteman's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Quiz Prgm., KGO, KJR, KEX; Avalon Time, KPO, KFI, KGW. 9:00—Pearce's Gang, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Allen, KGO, KGW; KFI; Marriage Club, KGO. 9:30—Noble's Orch., KGO, KEX, News, KJR. 10:00—Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; Sullivan, KNX, KSL; News Reporter, KPO, KFI, KGW; News, KOIN.

Thursday, 5:00—Rhythm Factory, KPO, KGW; Frank and Archie, KEX, KJR; Sunset Shadows, KGO. 5:30—Drama, KOMO; Kelsey's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Army Band, KPO, KGW. 6:00—Major Bowes, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Good News of 1940, KPO, KFI, KGW; Beyond Reasonable Doubt, KGO, KEX, KJR. 7:00—Workshop, KOIN; Music Hall, KPO, KFI. 7:30—Pop-Offs, KNX, KOIN; News, KSL. 8:00—Fred Waring, KPO, KGW; KFI; Cutler's Orch., KEX, Aloha Land, KGO; Amos and Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL. 8:15—Sam Hays, KNX; Cutler's

Orch., KGO; Mystery, KPO, KGW, KFI. 8:30—Symphony Hour, KPO, KGW, KFI; Ask-It-Best, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Lyman's Orch., KGO. 9:00—Strange As It Seems, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Sketch, KGO, KJR, KEX. 9:30—Those We Love, KPO, KFI, KGW; Roger's Orch., KGW; Owens' Orch., KSL; Madriguera's Orch., KGO, KEX; Operetta Series, KNX, KOIN; News, KJR. 10:00—News Reporter, KPO, KGW, KFI; News, KOIN, KNX; Foster's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KOIN.

10:15—Noble's Orch., KGO; Concert Hall, KPO; Clark Ross and Yeo, KOIN, KNX. 10:30—Bavazza's Orch., KPO, KGW, KFI; Holland's Orch., KOIN, KNX; Nottingham's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX. 11:00—Martin's Orch., KPO, KFI; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; Grays Orch., KSL, KOIN; News, KGO, KNX, KGW.

# Pocket Battleship Gets Food Carrier

By the Associated Press. The second of Germany's trio of pocket battleships apparently has returned to action, but the whereabouts of the third remains unknown. Sinking in the South Atlantic yesterday of the food-laden British steamer Doric Star was attributed to "a German raider" by the British admiralty, but

reliable unofficial sources said the attacker was the 10,000-ton Admiral Scheer.

# HEDLUND CHAIRMAN OF STATE BIRTHDAY BALLS

Portland, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Dr. E. T. Hedlund, Portland postmaster, became Oregon chairman of the seventh annual President's birthday ball today. Receipts from the January 30

event will be used to combat infantile paralysis.

# Cut Cotton Subsidy

Washington, Dec. 6.—(AP)—Secretary Wallace announced today that the rate of the government subsidy payment on cotton exports would be reduced by half, effective at midnight tonight.

To Fight Inspection. Salem, Dec. 6.—(AP)—The unemployment compensation commission served notice today it would ask the state supreme court next Thursday for a writ of mandamus to prevent carrying out of Circuit Judge L. G. Lewelling's order giving Emmet T. Rogers of Portland the right to inspect the commission's books.

# STRANGE AS IT SEEMS—By JOHN HIX

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



J.E. O'LEARY AND D.L. O'LEARY-- BROTHERS, of Ennis, TEXAS, LIVE IN THE SAME ROOM AND SLEEP IN THE SAME BED -- YET HAVE NOT SEEN EACH OTHER IN 2 YEARS! THEY ARE NOT BLIND... CATAPSTROPHE! A CAT GET OFF A BURGALAR ALARM IN A KANSAS CITY WAREHOUSE BY WALKING PAST AN "ELECTRIC EYE" WITH HIS TAIL ERECT! DAN PATCH-- famous harness horse, HELD THE WORLD'S PACING RECORD FOR 33 YEARS! (1:55 1/4, 1905-1938)

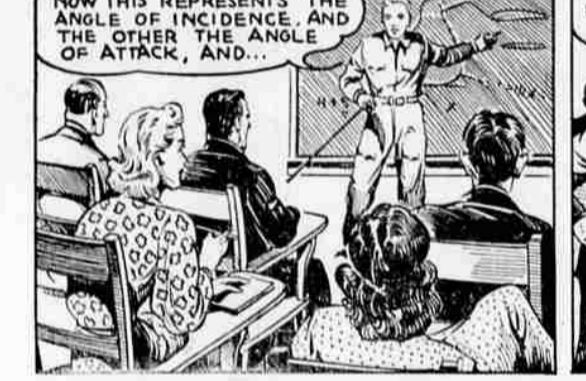
# SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



THE BOWLERS AT THE COMMUNITY CLUB THOUGHT IT WAS VERY CONSIDERATE OF THE LADIES TO SET OUT REFRESHMENTS IN THE PANTRY, AND IT WASN'T UNTIL THE LAST CRUMB HAD GONE THAT IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE LADIES HAD PREPARED THE REFRESHMENTS FOR THEIR OWN BRIDGE CLUB WHICH WAS MEETING UPSTAIRS

# TAILSPIN TOMMY—An Aerial Student Objects!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—Happy Day!



THE NEBBS—There's a Limit to Everything



EDWIN ALGER



SOL HESS



EDWIN ALGER



SOL HESS



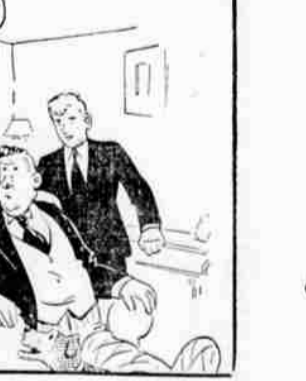
EDWIN ALGER



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EDWIN ALGER



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# GERMAN CONVICTION IS UPHELD BY COURT

Salem, Dec. 6.—(AP)—The larceny conviction of Fred W. German, president of a Portland real estate company bearing his name, was upheld Tuesday by the state supreme court.

German, who was sentenced June 30, 1938, to serve two years in the state penitentiary, was charged with larceny by embezzlement. The indictment accused him of taking \$300 belonging to a client. The opinion, by Justice Kelly, upheld Circuit Judge Earl C. LaTourrette. Closing time for Too Late to Classify Ads is 1:30 p. m. Use Mail Tribune WRN's ads.