MADE UP TO KILL

by Kelley Roos

Chapter 28

Strange Fact

"YOU understood, Steve," Jeff went on, "that Morris had never heard the name before. Yes, that's his story and he has stuck to it through everything."

"Why, Jeff?"

"That's one of the things I want Morris to tell us." Then Jeff went on musingly. "You know the funny thing about all this Lee Gray business is that the police were on the right track from the very beginning, only they didn't stay on it long enough. Their theory was that Lee Gray was someone in the Green Apples company, someone who had signed an assumed name to that note, thinking that Carol would understand it. It would have been difficult for an outsider to have got into the theater, up to Carol's dressing room and out again without being seen by anyone. But a very simple thing for a person in the company. They followed their theory for a little while. They checked that note with the handwriting of everybody in the cast, even the men's, although the writing was obviously feminine. But they missed checking one person. . . ."

"Who?" Carol breathed.

He looked at her quietly. "You."

Her hand went clutchingly to her throat. "I? But, Jeff, it was . . . the note was . . ."

Steve wheeled on Jeff, his face dark and stormy. "What are you talking about, Jeff? That note was sent to Carol. Why should they check her handwriting?"

"That's what we all thought. That's where we made our first mistake. Just because the note was found in her purse we assumed that she had been the recipient. We weren't bright enough to realize the truth. The truth was that Carol wrote the note herself and it was found before she had a chance to send it."

I laughed and the sound fell like a dull clatter in the tense silence of the room. "But, Jeff, it's silly, it's . . ."

"Look at Carol."

Her eyes were fastened on Jeff's face, held there as if hypnotized. Her lips parted and trembled, but there was no denial on them.

Jeff continued. "You wrote that note, didn't you, Carol?"

"Yes." It was hardly more than a whisper.

"And you left it in your purse where the police found it. I'm not positive to whom it was written but if I had three guesses, all of them would be Greeley Morris. Right?"

She nodded dully. "Yes. It was to Greeley Morris."

Steve said, "Carol!" and put his hand softly on her arm. She brushed it off with a gentle movement, her eyes still clinging to Jeff, and she didn't seem to know that it was Steve who spoke or Steve who touched her.

"And the thing you had to see him about, that thing which was so important, was to ask him not to tell anyone that you were Lee Gray."

She said, her voice a monotone, "Yes. How did you know, Jeff?"

The Right Clue

"I GUESS I'm getting to be a detective. Haila told me that the reason you had such a tough time getting a start on the stage was because you were such a bad first reader, that you had to work into a part before you could do anything with it. Then yesterday Clint Bowers remarked about your wonderful first reading for him, that after he heard you Alice McDonald didn't have a chance for the part of Dina. I should have got it then.

"But I had to be re-cued and Tommy Neilson did it for me. He was in Bowers' office, he said, the first time you walked in, and that you didn't give a reading, you gave a performance. And it dawned on me at last that for being a bad first reader you were sure knocking them over right and left.

"I reached out and took a guess. Maybe you gave such a spectacular first reading because it wasn't a first reading at all. Maybe you knew that part. But how could you? The play was done in England. When Haila and I were visiting Morris at the Gotham I noticed that he had a half-dozen scrapbooks overflowing with clippings. I got in his room while he was out and. . . ."

"How in the world did you get in his room, Jeff?" I asked.

"It was tough. Even after I convinced a chambermaid that I was a detective, I had to give her ten dollars and my fraternity pin with promises. We're engaged, but I think I can break it. She doesn't know my name. Besides I wouldn't marry a girl that didn't trust me. She watched me while I read Morris' scrapbook so I wouldn't swipe anything. Well, I found the London notices of Green Apples, no Carol Blanton. But the play was tried out in Manchester, and playing Dina was a girl named Leila Gray. I knew from the review who Leila Gray was. The critic described you pretty minutely, Carol. He raved about you."

Steve's fingers beat a nervous rhythm on my mantelpiece. He was watching Carol quietly, his face a stony question. She said, not looking in his direction: "I'll tell you about it if you want me to. There isn't any use hiding it now."

"No," Jeff said. "Maybe if you tell us everything we can help you."

"Carol Blanton's my real name. My mother's name was Leila Gray and I liked it. I took it when I went to London.

"Mother died when I was a baby, my father when I was sixteen. I was all alone. I found a job in a department store. I hated Salt Lake City, I hated the store and I hated everything about my life. I wanted to be an actress. And I saved my money, the little I earned.

"I finally saved four hundred dollars and then I won a dramatic prize that a woman's club gave. That was enough to go to London and enroll in the Royal Academy there. I'd dreamed about that for years. For the first time in my life I had what I wanted.

"There was nothing to remind me of that store. I had a little room, all mine, and new clothes and new work. A brand-new life in a brand-new country. Everything was wonderful, the way I'd planned it to be. It was while I was at the Academy that I met Greeley Morris."

She stopped and passed her hand wearily before her eyes. Steve had stopped his drumming and there was only the sound of our breathing in the room.

Cruelty

"HE came to see our graduating exercises, along with a lot of other playwrights and producers and directors, all the really big people in the London theater. My performance had been good, he said; perhaps he could use me. He had a play now with a part that I might fit. He thought I had some talent, might someday make an actress of myself. I suppose he did like my acting, too. But that wasn't the reason he gave me the part of Dina in Green Apples.

"I worked for him. Oh, how hard I worked! He was nasty and sarcastic and sometimes I wanted to cry in front of everybody. But then I wouldn't. I was learning to be an actress. I had a part on the stage. Everything was wonderful, too wonderful." She smiled bitterly. "Well, it was so far.

"Just before we opened in Manchester he started at me. Coming into my dressing room and pawing at me, following me home nights and everywhere I went. He wanted me to live with him and I . . . I hated him. You don't know Greeley Morris. Oh, yes, you saw him in Clint Bowers' office, but you don't know him. You think I'm frightened now because someone's trying to kill me, but I was more frightened then.

"I locked my door at night, pushed the bureau in front of it. I carried sandwiches into my room and ate them there because I was afraid to go out. And at the theater, all those days and those nights, every minute of it was agony. He's . . . oh, I can't describe him to you. I can't!"

Greeley Morris' dark, sardonic face rose before me. I didn't need Carol to describe him to me.

"It was the fourth night that we played Manchester that it happened. I was crazy with all those weeks of being afraid of Greeley Morris. I didn't know what I was doing any more. I walked onto the stage and stood there. I couldn't remember anything, my lines were gone. I could hear the prompter but I couldn't say the words. The audience was all laughing, some of them started to hoot. I . . . I just walked off. They brought the curtain down, put in the understudy. And Greeley Morris was waiting for me in my dressing room.

She stopped, her eyes dark with the horror of remembering. For the first time she looked at us. "You're wondering why I didn't quit. I couldn't. It wouldn't have done me any good. I knew I couldn't hide from him if he wanted to find me. And I . . . I needed the job.

"A few nights later it happened again, I forgot my lines almost at the same place. This time I didn't go back to my dressing room. I walked straight out into the street, my costume on and my make-up on. I walked out into the street. I went home.

"The next day I started looking for a job. It wasn't any good. There wasn't a manager in London who would let me work for him. Morris had got there first. They knew I was unreliable; they knew I had memory lapses on stage. I had walked out of Greeley Morris' show.

To be continued

New Doctors

Portland, Aug. 28.—(AP)—Eighteen applicants have passed state board examinations and have been licensed to practice medicine in Oregon, Dr. L. S. Besson, board secretary, said yesterday.

Labor Day Feed

Reedsport, Aug. 28. (AP)—Visitors to Reedsport on Labor Day will be fed two tons of royal chinook salmon taken from the lower Umpqua river, the chamber of commerce reported today.

Barker's BIG Sale

Sanforized WASH SLACKS

$1.19

Barkers

Store or Men

Named Hospital Head

Salem, Aug. 28.—(AP)—Dr. Donald Wair, who has been acting superintendent of the eastern Oregon state hospital for several months, was appointed superintendent yesterday by the state board of control. He succeeds Dr. W. D. McNary.

Jobs Lure OSC Students

Corvallis, Aug. 28.—(AP)—Oregon State college enrollment probably will decline this fall, Registrar E. B. Lemon said today. Due to attractive employment opportunities for technical school students will cut the total.

Murder Sentence Friday

Condon, Ore., Aug. 28.—(AP)—James Harvey Thomas, 19-year-old sailor, was convicted last night by a circuit court jury of the slaying of Douglas F. Smith, Aberdeen, near Arlington, Ore., June 11. Sentence will be passed Friday.

Closing time for Classified Ads 9 a. m.—Too late to Classify 12:30 p. m.

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:

STATIONS
Where to find them on the dial: KEX, 1190, Portland; KFI, 640, Los Angeles; KGA, 1510 Spokane; KGO, 810, San Francisco; KGW, 620, Portland; KJR, 1000, Seattle; KNX, 170, Los Angeles; KOA, 850 Denver; KOIN, 970, Portland; KOMO, 950, Seattle; KPO, 630, San Francisco; KSL, 1160, Salt Lake.

Time Shown Is PST

Thursday

5:00 p. m.—Major Bowes, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Grant Park Concert, KGO, KEX, KJR; Don Ameche in Music Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

6:00 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Cugat Rumba Revue, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Rudy Vallee, KEX, KJR, KGO.

6:30 p. m.—High Roads of Music, KPO; All Star Football Game, KGO, KJR; Organ Musings, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; All Star Football game, KGO, KEX; Concert Trio, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Housewarming, KOMO, KGW; Maudie's Diary, KNX, KSL, KOIN; All Star Football game, KJR, KEX.

8:00 p. m.—Easy Aces, KGO, KEX, KJR; Hollywood Smarty Party, KNX, KOIN; The Aldrich Family, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Saltair Orch., KSL.

8:30 p. m.—Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Carl Ravazza's Orch., KJR; Death Valley Days, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fellow Sportsmen, KGO; Baseball Game, KEX.

9:00 p. m.—Paul Sullivan, KNX, KOIN; Comedy, KPO; Emile Petti's Orch., KJR; Dance Orch., KGO; Faithful Stradivari, KGW; Musical Quinella, KOMO; Symphonic Serenade, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Neil Bondshu's Orch., KOMO; Dancing With Clancy, KGO; News, KJR, KSL.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Marine Band, KGO, KJR; Bob Crosby's Orch., KSL, KNX; News, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Bob Saunders' Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Ed Stocker and Music, KGW; Concert Hall, KPO; Masterworks of Music, KNX; State Traffic, KOIN; Industry and Defense, KOMO.

11:00 p. m.—Carl Ravazza's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGW, KNX, KGO; Fishing News, KJR.

Friday

5:00 p. m.—Janet Jordan, KGO, KJR, KEX; Waltz Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW Boulevard Interviews, KNX; Eyes of the World, KOIN; Americana, KSL.

5:30 p. m.—Uncle Walter's Dog House, KGW, KPO, KOMO; Hollywood Premiere, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

6:00 p. m.—Romance and Rhythm, KGO, KEX; Penthouse Party, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Wings of Destiny, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

6:30 p. m.—Listen America, KPO, KGW, KJR; Burl Ives, KNX, KSL, KOIN; First Piano Quartet, KGO, KEX; Comedy, KOMO.

7:00 p. m.—Fred Waring in Pleasure Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Johnny Long's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Dance Time, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Great Moments from Great Plays, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Vox Pop, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Will Osborne's Orch., KPO, KGW; Grandpappy and His Pals, KGO, KJR, KEX; Claudia, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fish Finder, KOMO.

8:30 p. m.—Gene Krupa's Orch., KGO, KJR; Jimmie Fidler, KNX, KOIN; You and Your Bank, KPO, Baseball Game, KEX; Fort Lewis News, KGW; Fort Lewis Life, KOMO; Leaders of the West, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—Boyd Keller's Orch., KGO, KJR; Bill Clifford's Orch., KPO; Paul Sullivan, KNX; Frontiers of Industry, KW; Leon F. Drews, KOIN; Highlight Hour, KOMO; Symphonic Serenade, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Weekly Spectator, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Bill Henry, KNX, KOIN; Emile Petti's Orch., KGO; News, KSL.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Jay Burnett, KGO, KJR; Bob Crosby's Orch., KNX; News, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Neil Bondshu's Orch., KGW, KOMO; Matty Malneck's Orch., KGO, KJR; The World Today, KOIN, 1 :L; Concert Hall, KPO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Behind the Headlines, KEX; American Cruise, KNX; Dance Orch., KOIN.

11:00 p. m.—Gene Krupa's Orch., KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KNX; Fishing News, KJR.

Cash for Poultry and Eggs—O. K. Poultry Co., 4th and Fir. Tel. 4315.

Bonds Voted Down

Madras, Aug. 28—(AP)—A Jefferson water conservation district bond issue of $44,000 was voted down, 30 to 24, at an election here last week-end, district officials announced today.

Riddle Nickle Deposits

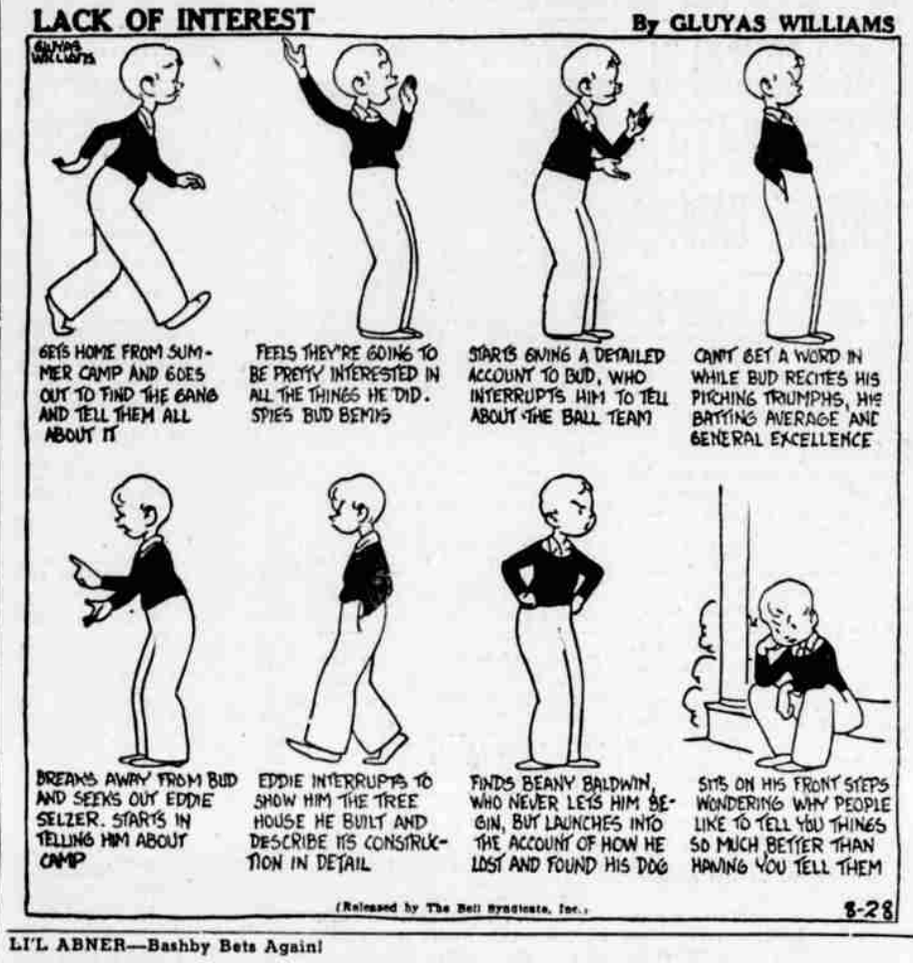
Portland, Aug. 28.—(AP)—Nickel deposits near Riddle contain reserves of 6,000,000 tons of low grade ore and 250,000 to 300,000 of slightly higher grade, Earl K. Nixon reported today.

Secy. Ickes Willing

Port Angeles, Wash., Aug. 28.—(AP)—Secretary Ickes, defense petroleum coordinator, who is vacationing on the Olympic peninsula, said today he welcomed a senate committee investigation of an eastern oil shortage. Certain military information on oil, however, he said, should not be made public.

LACK OF INTEREST

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

MESSENGER MARATHON

In 1900 James Francis Smith, Western Union messenger, was chosen to carry a message of good wishes signed by 21,845 schoolboys to President Paul Kruger of Boer Republic. After a trip of 12,000 miles Jimmie entered Pretoria, Boer capital, and delivered the message. The next day the townspeople fled to the hills, and Jimmie was left alone in the public square to meet the victorious British army.

The young messenger later joined the New York police force and at his death in 1940 was a lieutenant of detectives. Six uniformed Western Union messengers were his pall-bearers.

TOMORROW: Seeds of Discovery!

LI'L ABNER—Bashby Bets Again!

By AL CAPP

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Still A Long Way From Freedom!

By HAL FORREST

THE NEBBS—Fickle Stuyvie

By SOL HESS