

THE PHONE BOOTH MURDER

by Phoebe Atwood Taylor

Chapter 34

"HORACE kept watchin' the door," Asey said, "an' after gulpin' down about half his dinner, he went out to his car an' drove away. Miss Olive an' Bram Reid finished their meals, an' then she made off in her car, toward Provincetown, an' Bram Reid made a phone call, an' then he went off in his car toward Quisset!"

"I think I see what you mean," Mrs. Clutterfield said. "My, my, it's rather provoking, isn't it?" "That sort of sums it up," Asey said.

"Mrs. Clutterfield clucked her tongue and said she personally felt this whole affair was harder, much harder, than any mystery cartoon she'd ever seen."

"I still don't see why Horace was here," she added. "It appears as if they had a date, doesn't it? What do you make of that, Mr. Mayo?"

"This is all speculatin'," Asey said, "but I think that Ann Joyce wanted the middle-aged part in the play Mrs. Hingham told me about. Now, Mrs. Hingham said that Horace an' Bram Reid had been arguin', presumably about the castin' of that part. If Bram Reid wanted Ann to have it, there wouldn't hardly be no arguin'. So you can figure that he didn't think she could do it, an' Horace thought she could. See?"

"Not quite," Mrs. Clutterfield said. "But do go on, Mr. Mayo! This is fascinating, listening to you! I feel like Dr. Watson!" Asey swallowed.

"Wal-el, Doc," he said, "y'pose Horace asks Miss Olive to dinner to meet Bram Reid. I wonder now, if that wouldn't be how it happened that Ann got Miss Olive's clothes? They ask her to dinner to meet Bram on one hand, an' then in the next breath, they beg her to lend Ann an outfit of her clothes—Oho, I'm dumb! I'm gettin' old an' feeble, Mrs. Clutterfield! I just begin to catch on! Miss Olive was goin' to help, see? Get it?"

"No, but do go on! It's frightfully exciting! How could Miss Olive help? Not that she wouldn't probably have been terribly thrilled to!"

"Sure, that's it! Bram Reid an' the Theater an' all is out of her line. She'd jump at the chance of helpin'! Look, Horace an' Miss Olive an' Bram Reid are to sit down an' have their dinner. Long about dessert, say Miss Olive is to ship out to powder her nose—"

"She doesn't use any make-up, ever!" "Wal-el, she's to skip out. An' Ann Joyce, dressed like her, is to come back. Now you see how that would work out? If Bram Reid didn't catch on right away—"

"An' with all them rose-shaded lights in there, I think he'd have been fooled for a few minutes—then Ann had him, see? That explains why Horace phoned—I bet he was the one who called an' asked for mess beetle! That's why he was so nervous an' worried! Ann never showed up, an' he went off to try an' locate her!"

"Where," Mrs. Clutterfield inquired, "is Miss Olive now?"

some highly important information for you?" "Golly!" Asey said as he got out of the car, "now you speak of it, Jennie did murmur somethin' about your havin' phoned."

"Indeed!" Cummings retorted. "An' did Jennie happen to murmur that I was up at three this morning, and do you realize it's now practically three o'clock to-morrow morning? When people all break their necks to try and supply you with vital information, it seems you might—"

"You mean, Doc, you found Miss Olive?" Asey demanded. "Who said anything about findin' Miss Olive?" Cummings held open the front door for Mrs. Clutterfield and informed Asey in a whisper that the woman ought to find "My God, man, haven't you died her? Findin' schoolteachers isn't my department—look, what I've got to tell you is about that gun, Asey. The tool marks on the rifling of a bullet from that twenty-two we found with the girl don't match those on the bullet that killed her. Hear that?"

"Honest? What—?" "Furthermore," Cummings said, "I know it'll interest you to hear that it's Mrs. Hingham's gun."

"She bought it," Cummings said. "When I came back here, I brought the gun with me, and Hanson confronted her with it when she came in a while ago. After a stormy interview, she admitted the gun was hers, and even dug out the fancy case it came in—see it on the table? She claims the outfit, case and gun, was in her bottom bureau drawer and someone must have stolen it."

"Gun For Horace" "HUH! What in time," Asey said, "would she be buyin' guns for? Did she explain that?" "Claims she bought it for her husband to practice shootin' with," Cummings said, "so if he was drafted he'd know which end of a gun you pointed, or words to that general effect. Washy Doane says that Horace has used the gun perhaps twice. Says he closes his eyes—"

"Uh-huh, Washy told me about Horace's shootin' an' after havin' had a glimpse of the fellow, I understand that part," Asey said. "Horace ain't too rugged—they all gone to bed?"

"Mrs. Hingham's retired with acute migraine—genuine, I think. Hanson was feeling so thwarted by the time she came, he let loose in his best manner. You know, finger pointin' and yellin' 'Aha' and generally acting like a trial lawyer in a B picture. Your charming friend Rankin has also retired, yawning, after a few gentle cracks at me—"

"Before I forget it, an' before you malign my charmin' friend Rankin any more, Doc, I must tell you that he never got any of the bill, not sent his—"

"I don't believe it!" "He told me he left money to pay you with Freddy, an' took it for granted she did, an' how was he to know if you never billed him for his debt," Asey said. "I will tell you that man's simply a fourflusher, that's all! And look, one of the troopers chased someone he thought was a prowler, but it turned out to be a soldier."

"Again? Is Freddy up?" Asey interrupted. "I'm beginnin' to have this suspicion that maybe perhaps this comes in her department!"

"She's in the kitchen with Washy and Jennie. We were playin' ourselves with coffee," Cummings said, "to keep awake. Why should Freddy—?"

"You go get her," Asey said, an' while you're doin' that I'll go rouse Horace. He's the feller I'm most eager to see, right now."

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS: Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial: KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland; KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland; KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1310, Spokane; KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco; KGW (NBC-Red) 630, Portland; KJR (NBC-Blue) 1900, Seattle; KNX (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles; KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver; KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland; KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle; KPO (NBC-Red) 880, San Francisco; KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time Shown is PST Sunday 5:00 p. m.—Blue Echoes, KGO, KEX; Edgar Bergen, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Columbia Workshop, KNX, KOIN; Gospel Clinic, KJR; Ministerial Ass'n., KSL. 5:30 p. m.—Floyd Wright, KJR; One Man's Family, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Spelling Brandt, KNX; Musical Highlights, KGO; Cinnamon Bear, KEX; Dr. Carl Brandt, KOIN. 6:00 p. m.—Sunday Evening Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Grandpapa and His Pals, KGO, KEX, KJR; Manhattan Merry-Go-Round, KPO, KOMO, KGW. 6:30 p. m.—Bookman's Notebook, KGO; American Album of Familiar Music, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KEX; Conf. of Jews and Christians, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—Hour of Charm, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Goodwill Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Take It or Leave It, KNX, KSL, KOIN. 7:30 p. m.—Helen Hayes, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, KPO, KGW, KOMO. 8:00 p. m.—Crime Doctor, KNX, KOIN; Inner Sanctum Mystery, KGO, KEX, KJR; News, KSL. 8:30 p. m.—Jack Benny, KGO, KEX, KJR; I Was There, KNX, KOIN; Beau Solo Musicale, KGW; Highway Night Express, KOMO; Etchings in Brass, KPO. 9:00 p. m.—Walter Winchell, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Irene Rich, KGO, KJR, KEX; Hollywood Playhouse, KNX; Leon P. Dews, KOIN; String Ensemble, KSL. 9:30 p. m.—News, KJR; Story Behind the Headlines, KGO; What's It All About, KNX; Quiz of Two Cities, KGW, KOMO; Highway Night Express, KEX; Baker Theater, KOIN; Regal Amblings, KPO; On Temple Square, KSL. 10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Screen Guild Theater, KNX; Stanley Kenton's Orch., KGO, KEX; News, KOIN; National Veterans, KJR; Masterworks, KSL. 10:30 p. m.—Henry Busse's Orch., OO; Harry Owen's Orch., KNX, KOIN; Amen Corner, KEX; Hollywood Temple Hour, KJR; Sabbath Reveries, KSL. 11:00 p. m.—News, KNX, KGO; Bill Clifford's Orch., KEX; Gene Grounds, KSL.

KOIN, KSL; Strings that Sing, KPO, KGW. Monday 5:00 p. m.—Adventure stories, KGO, KJR; Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN; Stars of Today, KGW; Jane Arden, KOMO; Don Winslow of the Navy, KPO. 5:30 p. m.—News of the World, KGO, KEX, KJR; Cocktail Hour, KGW; Bill Henry, KNX; Newspaper of the Air, KOMO; Waltz Rhythm, KPO; Voices of Yesterday, KSL. 6:00 p. m.—Radio Theater, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Dr. I. Q. Jim McClain, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Cinnamon Bear, KEX; Rose Resnick, KGO; Scandnavian Reporter, KJR. 6:30 p. m.—For America We Sing, KGO, KEX, KJR; That Brewster Boy, KPO, KGW, KOMO. 7:00 p. m.—Mercury Theater, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Monday Merry Go Round, KGO, KEX, KJR; Contended Hour, KPO, KOMO, KGW. 7:30 p. m.—Cavalcade of America, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Blondie, KNX, KSL, KOIN; News Here and Abroad, KGO; Modern Music Box, KEX; Greater Washington Hour, KJR. 8:00 p. m.—Aman 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Fred Waring, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Herbert Marshall, KGO, KJR, KEX. 8:15 p. m.—Lanny Ross, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Lum and Abner, KOMO, KGW; Shall-Bert Wheeler, KJR. 8:30 p. m.—I Love a Mystery, KEX, KSL.

CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

Comic strip 'CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE' by Gluyas Williams. It shows a woman in a dress running through a house, carrying boxes. The panels are: 1. REALIZES TIME HAS COME TO RESTORE ORDER TO LIVING ROOM AFTER THE CHRISTMAS CONFUSION. 2. PICKS UP JUNIOR'S TRAIN AND TRACKS AND PUTS THEM IN THEIR BOX. 3. CARRIES THEM UP TO JUNIOR'S ROOM AND GOES ABOUT HER OTHER WORK. 4. HALF AN HOUR LATER, FINDS TRAIN SET UP IN LIVING ROOM AGAIN. CALLS TO JUNIOR IS OR ISN'T HE PLAYING WITH IT? 5. GETTING NO REPLY, CARRIES IT UPSTAIRS AGAIN, JUNIOR APPEARING AT FRONT DOOR SAYING HE WANTS TO SHOW TRAIN TO BUD BERTS. 6. HAVING SET UP TRAIN IN LIVING ROOM AGAIN JUNIOR CALLS HE AND BUD ARE GOING OUT-DOORS TO PLAY NOW. 7. WITH JUNIOR SAFELY OUT OF THE HOUSE, JUNIOR PUTS TRAIN IN ITS BOX AND CARRIES IT UP. 8. A LITTLE LATER FINDS TRAIN AND TRACKS ALL OVER LIVING ROOM AGAIN AND HUSBAND PLAYING WITH THEM.

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LIL' ABNER—Broken Blossoms II

Comic strip 'LIL' ABNER' by Al Capp. Panel 1: "SO YO' IS CHERRY BLOSSOM WIF TH' HEART-SHAPED EARS?!" "ACHOO! YES!?" Panel 2: "MAH SEARCH HAS ENDED!! -OH, CHERRY BLOSSOM -AH LOVES YO'!- IN A SUB-CONSHUS WAY, OF COURSE!!"

Comic strip 'LIL' ABNER' by Al Capp. Panel 3: "YEAH?" Panel 4: "SO WHAT IF THEY CALLS ME CHERRY BLOSSOM-BATTLIN' CHERRY BLOSSOM? SO WHAT IF MY EARS HAS BEEN POUNDED INTO A RIDIKALUSS SHAPE? DO HAFTA STAND FOR CHEAP GAGS?" "W-WRONG CHERRY BLOSSOM! GULP!!"

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Sinister Preparations

Comic strip 'TAILSPIN TOMMY' by Hal Forrest. Panel 1: "AS SKEETS LANDED HIS PLANE IN THE ISOLATED CLEARING, DR. VERMIN'S HYPNOTIC INFLUENCE OVER HIM BEGAN TO WEAR OFF AND HE TRIED TO ESCAPE BUT HE WAS OVERPOWERED BY THE SPIES, AND THE EVIL DOCTOR, AGAIN DRUGGED HIM!" Panel 2: "ATTACH THE BOMB TO THE PLANE!" Panel 3: "CAREFUL! THAT IS A SUPER EXPLOSIVE! IT WILL BLAST AN AREA FIVE MILES WIDE!!"

Comic strip 'TAILSPIN TOMMY' by Hal Forrest. Panel 4: "LT. MILLIGAN, YOUR WILL IS SUBJECT TO MINE... I AM YOUR MASTER, YOU MUST OBEY ME!" "YES... MASTER" Panel 5: "YOU SHALL FLY OVER THE INTERNATIONAL AUDITORIUM, WHERE OUR ENEMIES ARE ASSEMBLED, THEN YOU SHALL RELEASE THE BOMB! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" "YES... MASTER"

Comic strip 'TAILSPIN TOMMY' by Hal Forrest. Panel 6: "GREAT GUNS!! THE SPIES INTEND TO HAVE THE HELPLESS DRUGGED SKEETER BOMB THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL COURT CONFERENCE!"

THE NEBBS—Prize Dumbbell

Comic strip 'THE NEBBS' by Sol Hess. Panel 1: "HELLO, RICH LADY! HOW IS NORTHVILLE'S FINANCIAL QUEEN?" "DON'T GET SOURCASTIC!" Panel 2: "WELL, YOU GOT MY MONEY SNUG IN THE BANK... NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT"

Comic strip 'THE NEBBS' by Sol Hess. Panel 3: "I BORROWED THE MONEY FROM POTTS... HE WAS GLAD TO GIVE ME CREDIT, SO HE'S MAKING 6% THAT'S \$120 A YEAR—THAT'S WHAT YOU WAS GETTING... SO YOU TAKE THE DOUGH RIGHT BACK TO POTTS!" Panel 4: "IF I'M DUMB LET ME ENJOY IT... I DON'T ASK FOR NO EXPLANATION ABOUT IT."

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

Illustration of Prince Kung Teh-Cheng, a young man in traditional Chinese attire. Text: "PRINCE KUNG TEH-CHENG—75th LINEAL DESCENDANT OF CONFUCIUS, WAS INVITED BY THE JAPANESE TO BECOME EMPEROR OF CHINA, BUT REFUSED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH HIS STUDIES! 1938..." "DEADLY PASSENGER! THE YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO OF THE TROPICS HAS BOARDED SHIPS AND SPREAD TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD!" "THE YOUNG OF THE STARFISH CLUSTER OVER ITS MOUTH, AND UNTIL THEY ARE BIG ENOUGH TO FEED FOR THEMSELVES, THE PARENT CANNOT EAT!" "GEO. KINGMAN, CADDIE, MADE A HOLE-IN-ONE WHILE SHOWING GOLFERS HOW TO PLAY THE DIFFICULT 16TH! (222 yards, including an ocean cove) Del Monte, Calif." "BOOKS FOR EMPIRE In 1938 the Japanese sought to consolidate their gains in China by choosing a native Chinese as emperor. Most likely candidate for this honor was Prince Kung Teh-Cheng who, like all his male ancestors before him, was born on the same estate where Confucius died in 478 B. C. Prince Kung declined the Japanese offer, mostly on the grounds that it would interfere with his classical education—for his family, from Confucius onward, had never sought worldly power. The family of Confucius, or Kung Fu-Tse, as his name is properly spelled, represents the oldest unbroken line in the world. It has been proved that it goes back 25 centuries, and probably extends into the dim past of 2500 B. C. MONDAY: College Superman!

NOTICE! Barkers are Still Selling ARROW SHIRTS at the Old Prices \$2.00 - \$2.25 - \$2.50 Arrow Shirts increase in Price January 1st Barkers Store for Men

Gen. Harmon Hinted Army Air Chieftain Washington, Dec. 27.—(AP)—Major General Millard F. Harmon, veteran flier, was reported reliably Friday to have been chosen to head the army air force combat command and thus to be general field director of army air fighting operations. General Harmon, recently commander of the second air force with headquarters at Fort George Wright, Wash., succeeds Lieutenant General Delos C. Emons, who has been put in charge of Hawaii's defenses. An air force officer since he flew into Mexico with the 1916 punitive expedition, General Harmon is 53 and a graduate of the military academy.