# MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 12

**Shock**

"LISTEN, darling," Joyce said, words like weights she had to lift. "There's something you've got to know." She hesitated, groping for some easier way to explain, then plunging ahead with Delia's eyes upon her. "Kent just told me. Perry Clarke was just found shot to death in his apartment."

Delia's eyes widened slightly and her lips parted. That, in that first instant, was her only outward reaction.

"But—I just left him, a little while ago—"

Then the true enormity of the situation struck home; her reaction was a visible, frightening thing.

"No!" she cried and started to rise, all color fading from her face. Joyce yanked at her hand and shook her as roughly as she could.

"Delia! Listen!"

The girl's voice came in a frightened whisper. "It couldn't be! Not Ward, Joyce. Not Ward!"

"Of course it couldn't," Joyce said. "But I had to tell you. We all may have to be questioned tomorrow. It's pretty awful, I know, but—" She rose and put her hand on Delia's shoulder. "You stay right there."

The girl huddled there, her face rigid and chalky. "It couldn't be Ward," she said again.

"I know, darling," Joyce said and hurried into the dining room, aware that the words she uttered had no basis in fact.

She poured brandy into a glass and went into the kitchen to add a little water. There was no escaping the overwhelming weight of circumstances but she tried to present a front of confidence and assurance.

"Drink this," she said.

Delia shook her head.

"I don't want it."

"A little, anyway," Joyce said. "Come, now."

Delia took a swallow, the tears welling in her eyes.

"I know he was there," she said. "But he didn't do it. He couldn't kill anyone, Joyce. Not Ward."

"You're going to make yourself sick," Joyce said, deciding bluntness might be more effective than sympathy, "and that's silly. Just because you saw his car doesn't mean he shot Perry Clarke. Go on, now, drink some more of that. And then we've got to decide what to do. The police are bound to question you. And you've got to have a story you can stick to; otherwise you'll get confused and say something you shouldn't."

**'Our Secret'**

DELIA put down the empty glass. Color was coming back in her face. "Yes, I know," she said. "I'm sorry I was such a goose but—"

She broke off, her eyes tortured but a gradual firmness coming about the mouth and chin.

"All right," she said. "I guess I'm for it. What should I do?"

"Let's see." Joyce went to work re-assembling her facts. "No one saw you leave your apartment? Nor go in Perry Clarke's building?"

"I don't think so."

"Then no one knows that you were there, do they? I'll keep the envelope for you—no one could know about that either, now that Perry Clarke is dead. Probably you were the only one to notice Ward's car. Unless he was actually seen they can't prove he was there."

"It doesn't sound so bad, does it?" Delia asked.

"Of course it doesn't. What time did you get home?"

"After nine, I'm sure."

"And you simply stayed there—went to bed early. That's your story, and don't you change it for anyone."

"All right."

"Promise?"

"Promise," Delia said. She rearranged her hat and stood up. In the entryway she put her hands on Joyce's arms. "What about Kent? You won't tell him? About me or Ward, I mean?"

The question left Joyce at a momentary lose, because she had not thought about her husband. Now her eyes grew thoughtful. Kent had had a lot of experience in such matters. If Delia's part in the affair could be handled as simply as she hoped there would be no need to confide in him until things were settled. But if there was trouble, if there were other complications, he would know what to do. Her first impulse was to tell him the truth, just as she always turned to him when she needed help and understanding. Still—

Joyce put her arms around the girl and hugged her gently. "All right," she said, talking past the thickness in her throat. "It'll be our secret."

**Much Later**

IT WAS nearly two o'clock when Kent Murdock let himself into the apartment, and the amount of light coming from the living room told him Joyce was waiting for him.

"Hi," he called, hanging up his hat and coat in the entryway closet.

"Hello," a drowsy voice came back to him.

Joyce was on the divan in her dressing room, head and shoulders propped up by pillows. She had wrapped a blanket around her knees, and held a book face down across her stomach. He went over and kissed her.

"I told you not to wait up."

"You knew I couldn't sleep after what you told me over the phone."

"I was afraid you wouldn't. I almost didn't tell you."

"Well, I'm glad you did." Joyce said. "Now I've got to have the rest of it."

"I was afraid of that, too." Murdock stretched. "I'm tired," he said, "and thirsty. Is there any beer?"

"I think so." Joyce started to rise.

"I'll get it."

"No, I'll get it. I'm tired of sitting here."

She threw aside the blanket and stood up, hitching the dressing gown over her hips and tightening the belt. He went over to the mantel and filled his pipe, and by the time he had it drawing well she was back with a tray. For him there was the glass of beer and a plate of crackers and cheese; for herself she had a glass of milk and a cookie.

"I don't know what I'd do without you," he said, grinning.

Murdock laid aside his pipe and drank deeply. His dark hair was tousled now and although the stamp of weariness was upon his angular face, there was no sloppiness about him and his quiet tweeds hung neatly.

"That hit the spot," he said finally. "Now what do you want to know?"

"Everything."

And he told her.

"Do the police suspect anyone?" she asked when he had finished.

"Not yet, they don't."

"No ideas?"

"I don't know about that, but it's a cinch they'll be doing some questioning tomorrow—especially those four names that were on that piece of paper. . . . You don't know any Raeburn, do you?"

Joyce said she didn't. Later, in bed, she spoke across the darkness.

"Why didn't you tell me the truth about Hestor?"

"Huh?" Murdock muttered sleepily.

"I've always pictured her as a little crude and loud and obvious."

"She was."

"Well, she's certainly stunning now. Her body is magnificent. She's not crude, or if she is she does not show it."

**To be continued**

# 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) 1510 Spokane; KGO (NBC-Blue) 810 San Francisco; KGW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland; KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle; KNX (CBS) 1070 Los Angeles; KOA (NBC-Red) 850 Denver; KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland; KOMO (NBC-Red) 950 Seattle; KPO (NBC-Red) 680 San Francisco; KSL (CBS) 1160 Salt Lake City.**

**Time Shown is PST**

**Wednesday**

5:00 p. m.—H. V. Kaltenborn, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Nelson Eddy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Waltz Rhythm, KPO.

5:30 p. m.—Dr. Christian, KSL; It Happened in the Service, KOMO, KGW; News, KGO; Harry W. Flannery, KNX, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Passing Parade, KPO.

6:00 p. m.—Shirley Temple in Junior Miss, KNX, KOIN; Those We Love, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Basin Street Chamber Music, KGO, KEX; Serenade, KJR; Sports, KSL.

6:30 p. m. — Dr. Cab Calloway's Quizzicale, KGO, KJR; Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—ABC Roundtable, KGO, KEX; Great Moments in Music, KOIN, KSL, KNX; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Time To Relax, KJR.

7:30 p. m.—Lightning Jim, KGO, KJR, KEX; Suspense, KNX, KOIN KSL.

8:00 p. m.—Quiz Kids, KGO, KEX KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Point Sublime, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

8:15 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN.

8:30 p. m.—Dr. Christian, KNX, KOIN; Uncle Walter's Dog House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Manhattan At Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News Here and Abroad, KGO; Organist, KNX; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Most Honored Music, KGW; Studio Party, KJR; Leon F. Drews, KOIN; Highlight Hour, KOMO; Light and Mellow, KPO; Sports, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Teddy Powell's Orch., KOMO, KGW; The Boys In Blue, KGO; News, KJR, KSL; Northwest Neighbors, KOIN; News, KEX; Off the Record, KOMO; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Ronnie Kemper's Orch., KGO, KEX; News, KNX, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL; Chamber Music Society, KJR.

10:30 p. m.—Freddy Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR; Les Brown's Orch., KNX, KSL; Harry Owen's Hawaiians, KPO, KOMO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; War Time Women, KOIN.

11:00 p. m. — Organ, KPO; Lud Gluskin's Orch., KOIN, KSL; This Moving World, KRX; News, KGO, KNX; Folk Music, KJR; Evening Reveries, KOMO.

**Thursday**

5:00 p. m.—Jim Backus Show, KSL; Maurice's Orch., KPO, KGW; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Afternoon Dances, KNX; Eyes of the World, KOIN; Dance Orch., KOMO.

5:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KSL; Cleta Roberts Reports, KGO, KEX; Masters of Music, KGW; Harry W. Flannery, KNX, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Afternoon Dances, KNX; Streamlined Fairy Tales, KOMO; The Parade, KPO.

6:00 p. m.—Music Hall, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Major Bowes, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Letters to a Lieutenant, KEX, KJR; Voice of Victory, KGO.

6:30 p. m.—Big Town, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fifteen Minutes from Broadway, KGO; News, KEX; Armchair Cruises, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—Al Pearce's Gang, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Rudy Vallee Show, KNX, KOIN, KSL.

7:30 p. m.—Talks, KSL; Red Ryder, KGO, KJR, KEX; Moylan Sisters, KGW; Time Out for Melody, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN; Romance Time, KOMO; Toast to America's Allies, KPO.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

8:15 p. m.—Lum and Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL.

8:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KNX, KOIN; Fannie Brice, KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Nation at War, KGO, KJR, KEX; News, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News, Here and Abroad, KGO; United We Sing, KNX; Aldrich Family, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Old Timers, KJR; Company at Ease, KOIN; Maudie's Diary, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Ellery Queen, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Maudie's Diary, KNX, KOIN; News, KJR, KSL, KEX.

10:00 p. m.—America's Town Meeting of the Air, KGO, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; News, KNX; Masterworks of Music, KSL; On with the Dance, KEX; Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Sports, KNX, KSL; Carl Kalash's Orch., KOMO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; Sports, KNX; Harvesting for Victory, KPO; War Time Women, KOIN.

11:00 p. m.—Swing Your Partner, KPO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KNX; Evening Reveries, KOMO.

## FINCH PROMOTED

Omaha, July 1. — (AP) — F. N. Finch, for 10 years general manager of the Union Pacific at Portland, was appointed an executive assistant of the railroad yesterday. He will have headquarters at Portland.

More than 30 tribes live on the 27 Indian reservations in Oklahoma. Thirty-six per cent of all U. S. Indians live in Oklahoma.

# Volunteer Farm Help Doing All Right But Main Test Is Ahead

By Rennie Taylor

San Francisco, July 1.—(Wide World)—This is a preliminary report on the manpower value of the city people and school children who went into the fields and orchards to do stoop labor and help save the food for victory crops.

They are doing all right so far, say the agricultural labor authorities, but not as well as experienced hands. However, the supreme test is yet to come.

Farm labor specialists in general have been skeptical about the worth of inexperienced volunteers, especially those recruited from cities, they said their callouses were in the wrong places.

But the urban armies now have a string of initial victories to their credit.

**Sugar Beet Crop Saved For Idaho**

They supplied the extra licks necessary to save the sugar beet crops of southwestern Idaho at a critical stage.

About 15,000 workers, 75 per cent of them volunteers, are keeping the strawberries picked in Oregon's Willamette valley. Another 1,000 are working alongside 6,000 regular hands to harvest the Washington-Oregon pea crop, which represents about one-sixth of the nation's canning peas.

Still another 600 city people from eastern Oregon towns thinned enough sugar beets in the big fields of Malheur county to prevent damage until Japanese from evacuation centers could be brought to the rescue.

School children workers have drawn praise from experts in all three Pacific coast states. In some cases the youngsters have been rated better workers than their elders.

**Average City Hand Two-Thirds Value**

L. C. Stoll, Oregon state employment service director, now figures the average city volunteer is worth about two-thirds of a regular hand. Before he saw them in action he guessed they would be worth only one-third of an experienced worker.

Stoll reported boys 14 to 16 years old were making an average of $3.25 a day in the berry fields and $4.50 a day picking cherries. Women earn slightly more than that, he said.

High school boys and girls, reported J. B. Newport, Idaho commissioner of agriculture, were able to block and thin more beets than the average city grownup.

"At the beginning of the season," he added, "the work of the youngsters was not up to the standard of the men folks from the towns. This was overcome largely by placing them in groups of seven or eight with a man or a sponsor who stayed and worked with them throughout the day."

**Boys and Girls Rate Big Cheer**

The boys and girls got a rousing cheer from James C. Grant of the U. S. employment service in Washington state, who said:

"Their help in the strawberry harvest was very, very good. They have done a grand job of it. Older, inexperienced workers also have acquitted themselves well but they need some training."

Another boost for the youngsters came from Frank L. Buckner, U. S. employment service representative in California, who said:

"Where there has been competent supervision, school children have been quite effective in farm work. This applies particularly where agricultural teachers have done the supervising."

Newport believes the achievement of the volunteers in Idaho was greater from the standpoint of morale than from the amount of work actually done.

There state employes and business men left their regular jobs and went into the fields during mornings to help meet a sudden emergency. Many of them were past middle age and unaccustomed to back-breaking labor.

# FLUHRER ATTENDS BAKERS' SESSION ON WAR EFFORTS

The annual general managers' conference of the bakery industry, attended by Wm. H. Fluhrer of Fluhrer Bakeries, Medford, concluded its sessions this week in Chicago by unanimously adopting a resolution pledging full support to the government's wartime needs for general nutritional improvements.

The enrichment of bread, at considerable cost to large bakeries, has added needed vitamins and iron to the diet of major segments of the American population, at no increase in bread prices, it was pointed out. Other demands in connection with feeding of army personnel and defense workers are also placing heavy responsibilities on bakers in all sections of the country but it was the consensus of managers represented at the conference that these demands were being and would continue to be met.

Mr. Fluhrer states that Medford bakers are cooperating fully in these tasks, including enrichment in accordance with government standards; and supplying of unusually heavy bread requirements in connection with Camp White construction and operation adjacent to Medford. Mr. Fluhrer reported to the conference on these activities as did bakers similarly situated in other defense areas.

# MANY TYPE JOBS AVAILABLE HERE

Lewis Ulrich, manager of the United States Employment Service, 45 North Fir street, announced today that jobs were available for the following types of work:

Spray hands, thinners, hay hands, dayworkers, housekeepers, fellers and buckers, unskilled laborers, bellhops, telephone operators, miners and muckers, auto mechanics, male waiters, dishwashers, second cooks, janitor, irrigators, milkers, ranch cooks and welder trainees, both male and female.

## STRANGE AS IT SEEMS by JOHN HIX

**ODD RACE**

**The dirigible in the novel California race of 1903 was piloted by Roy Knabenshue, and the car by Colonel M. T. Hancock. The contest took thirty minutes—the aircraft nosing over the finish line at the Raymond hotel in Pasadena a few minutes before the car appeared. After the race Knabenshue celebrated the novel event, probably the first, if not last, of its kind in history, by dropping in to visit friends around town. He accomplished this by the simple and direct method of dropping out of the sky onto their lawns!**

DIFFICULT DECISIONS By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Too Late! Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

LI'L ABNER—Farewell To Arms By Al Capp

THE NEBBS—That's Telling Them By Hess

# HOW THEY STAND

By The Associated Press

**Pacific Coast**

| | W | L | Pct. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sacramento | 53 | 33 | .616 |
| Los Angeles | 49 | 35 | .583 |
| San Diego | 50 | 38 | .568 |
| San Francisco | 41 | 41 | .500 |
| Oakland | 40 | 45 | .471 |
| Seattle | 40 | 45 | .471 |
| Hollywood | 37 | 52 | .416 |
| Portland | 31 | 52 | .373 |
| **American** | | | |
| New York | 47 | 23 | .671 |
| Boston | 42 | 27 | .609 |
| Cleveland | 40 | 33 | .548 |
| Detroit | 41 | 35 | .539 |
| St. Louis | 33 | 39 | .458 |
| Chicago | 30 | 38 | .441 |
| Philadelphia | 30 | 48 | .385 |
| Washington | 26 | 46 | .361 |
| **National** | | | |
| Brooklyn | 48 | 20 | .706 |
| St. Louis | 38 | 27 | .585 |
| Cincinnati | 39 | 32 | .549 |
| New York | 37 | 35 | .514 |
| Chicago | 36 | 38 | .486 |
| Pittsburgh | 32 | 36 | .471 |
| Boston | 33 | 43 | .434 |
| Philadelphia | 19 | 51 | .271 |

# Reese Creek

Reese Creek, July 1—(Spl.)—Mr. and Mrs. Guy Payne left last week end for Idaho where Mr. Payne was transferred on road work.

Mrs. Stults and daughter Grace arrived last week to join Mr. Stults. They will make their home here and are making some very substantial improvements in the house, putting in a pressure electric water system and modernizing the house.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller and daughters Freda, of Klamath Falls, and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Zimmerman of Central Point were guests June 21 of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Humphrey.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Grow and new baby, Annette Jane, were out recently to see their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Grow. Mrs. Harold Grow and baby will spend sometime with the parents.

Kathleen Vestel returned June 25 from a visit with her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jantzer of near Prospect.

J. E. Grow is home from cantonment work to put up his fine hay crop this week. He says he thinks he will by through working at the cantonment in about two more weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Write, and family and Mr. and Mrs. Philip Freed, and family, all of San Francisco, visited three days last week with Mr. White's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan.

Mrs. Rose Sturgill, is visiting her daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Grow.

Word has been received by his parents that Hollis Martin is in Hawaii and getting along fine. He is driving an ambulance and likes his work very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Collins are putting up their hay crop, they are also papering and redecorating their house—on their newly acquired farm.

When the Sunday school was discontinued in the Beagle district, Mr. L. C. Swanson and sister, Miss Annie A. Swanson came to the American Union Sunday school here at Reese Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dunlap and babies visited at the W. R. Lamb home, June 27.

**BOVINE RULES NEEDED**

Dayton, Nev. (U.P.)—Justice of the Peace Denas A. Walmsley is not so keen about blackouts. He was milking when the first steam whistle alert was sounded. The cow kicked him, overturned the bucket, and poured the milk into his boot.

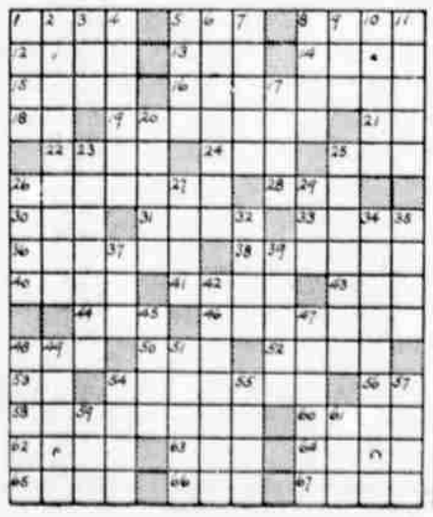
Pittsburg is called "City of Bridges." Engineers throughout the world go there to study bridge construction.

# Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1. City in Iowa
4. Leaf of the palmyra palm
8. Succulent plant
12. Inquisitive
13. Chess pieces
14. Russian sea
15. Insects
16. Make active
18. Pronoun
19. Stings or prickles
21. Babylonian deity
23. Ornament on a pagoda
25. Inquire
26. Astronomical measurement
28. Light touch
30. Haul
31. Beams
32. Oldest Hindu scripture
36. Ammonia derivatives
38. Mountain ridges
40. Glut
41. Form of lotto
42. Beverage
44. Pointed tool
46. Breed of chickens
48. Gypsy word for book
50. Have obligations
52. Spikes of corn
53. Abraham's birthplace
54. Seriousness
56. Hindu deity
58. Tabulation of the year
60. Principal
62. Roman road
63. Greek letter
64. Department in France
65. Consider
66. Low haunt
67. Compass point

**DOWN**

1. Philippine termite
2. Last Aztec emperor of Mexico
3. Superlative ending
4. Orderly arrangement
5. Sign
6. Long
7. Anoint
8. Ugly old woman
9. Silkworm
10. Demolishes
11. Cold and depressing
17. Bamboo-like grass
20. Harden
22. Pertaining to the fingers
23. One who encourages
24. Word of lamentation
27. Duty
29. Salutation
32. National
34. Skins of certain animals
35. Hindu prayer rug
37. Condensed moisture of the air
39. English physician and author
42. Lift
43. Bereft
47. Place for storing winter fodder
48. Clear
49. Angry
51. Walked in water
54. Miracle
55. Pieces
57. Diffused
59. Shelter
61. Exist

Solution Of Yesterday's Puzzle