

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Cox

Chapter 17 Ultimatum

THE hot tub soon absorbed the weariness from Della's legs, but as she lay there soaking, the sense of bodily contentment was gradually counteracted by a growing anxiety.

It was after six now, and until five thirty she had been tramping the streets in search of that elusive hat which was to match Joyce's brown suit. In the end they had found one at Lucille's, and Joyce had been dropped at her apartment with the promise that Della would be back at seven for dinner. During that time she had not thought much about the murder of Perry Clarke; now those neglected fears again were on the prowl.

She was, she told herself, being silly. Actually it was nothing but her imagination that bothered her, and this was not very flattering to Ward. He had gone to see Clarke, to be sure; he had wanted those clippings, had argued about them at Hester's and had gone there last night to get them. He had been the one who had knocked at the door. It must have been his voice she heard while she was taking the envelope from the bedroom.

She sat up, slipping hard at the water in anger and exasperation at herself for thinking about it. The splash rained against the wall and she stood up and reached for the towel as she stepped to the bath mat.

Why must she torture herself this way? Why couldn't she trust him when she knew nothing at all except the fact that he had been in Clarke's apartment? She knew, of course, the answer to this too. She was afraid. She had the wind up, and couldn't do anything about it. Never in all her life could she remember happiness like that of the last six months, and the thought of losing it was terrifying.

The knocking on the door cut sharply across her thoughts and she realized that, except for the towel in her hand, she was quite naked. She smiled at herself and reached for her robe, a spark of quick excitement touching off her hopes.

Ward? It must be. No one ever called on her, and although he usually telephoned before he came he probably had just stopped off on his way home.

The Little Man

SHE took off the rubber cap and shook out her hair, stepped into her mules and tightened the robe about her. Passing through the bedroom she heard the knocking again, but stopped at the vanity to slap on some powder and inspect herself.

The knocking was now insistent and she called: "Just a minute," as she scuffed across the living room. She pulled the door open a tentative crack and peered out.

The man stood very close to that small opening, not Ward, but someone she had never seen before; a short, solid looking man, with nondescript clothes and a sweatstained gray hat pushed back from his forehead.

"Hello," he said. "How do you do, Della?"

"How do you do, Della?" she said, thinking about the chain-stop Ward Allen had insisted she fasten it.

"Talk to you a minute?" "What is it you want?" "I want to talk to you. About last night."

Something tightened up in Della and her hand was cold on the doorknob.

"Who are you?" she asked. "The name doesn't matter," the man said. "It's what I've got to say that counts."

"But I don't understand. If you could tell me what—"

"Not from out here talking through a crack in the door," "Couldn't you come back some other time?"

"No."

"But I—I'm not dressed." "I'll wait." Della hesitated, conscious of a rapidly growing sense of alarm. What could he mean by that reference to "last night"? She could feel his eyes boring into her and suddenly he no longer seemed small and nondescript. There was something menacing in his very presence and as much as she wanted to shut him out she dared not slam the door.

"Can't you at least tell me what it's about?" she asked hesitantly. "About a guy named Clarke," he said. "Go ahead, get dressed. I'll wait."

Della closed the door, the coldness creeping up her legs and sapping at her strength as she hurried back to the bedroom and began to dress, trying to think and then trying not to when she found the result so frightening.

She did not bother with the details of her appearance, nor stop to primp before the mirror. She donned underwear and slipped a green woolen dress over her head. As soon as she had her stockings and shoes on she went back to the hall door and opened it.

"Thanks," the man said, and entered.

He took off his hat, stopped in the center of the room.

Della put on what she thought was a smile and tried to be polite, to keep her voice and manner composed.

"Won't you sit down?"

Until Noon

THE man did so and she crossed to the sofa. He sat on the edge of the chair, leaning forward a little, studying her, holding his hat so that it dangled between his knees. His face was round and shiny and unworried; his hair was thin and straight. Only his eyes served to warn her that for all his outward placency there was something about him that could be hard and shrewd and ruthless. Small, and partly hidden by their fleshy setting, those eyes were steady and fathomless, revealing nothing.

"Now," Della said. "What was it?"

"You went to see Clarke last night. You went to his apartment."

Della drew a breath. "Did it?"

"A little before eleven. You weren't the only one, understand, but you were the first."

She waited, trying to keep her smile, fighting hard to meet the announcement calmly, knowing all the time that if this man knew she had been to see Clarke, he must know that Ward had also called.

"And Clarke had some papers," the man went on. "Somebody hid them. The police didn't find them."

"You're from the police?" "No."

"Then I don't understand—" "You will, Della. He had some papers. Somebody hid them. Either you or somebody else."

Della had control of herself now. "But if you're not from the police," she said, "how do you happen to know so much about it?"

"You were there, weren't you?" Della survived him coldly and said nothing. The man bunched his lips and stood up.

"Okay," he said flatly. "I'll put it this way. You've got until tomorrow noon."

"I'm afraid I don't follow you." "Until tomorrow noon. I'll telephone you here. Either you've got those papers or you know who has. Get them. I'll tell you what to do with them when I call."

"But suppose—" "I'm not supposing anything. If you don't deliver the papers get tipped off. I think they'd like to know where you were at eleven o'clock last night. I think they'd like to know who else was there."

He put on his hat and went to the door, opening it before Della could reach him. In the hall he turned.

"You've got until noon. Play ball with me or I'll turn you in."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (NBC) 1230, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1310, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KJW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland.
KJN (NBC-Blue) 1070, Los Angeles.
KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver.
KOIN (CBS) 870, Portland.
KOMO (NBC-Red) 950, Seattle.
KPO (NBC-Red) 580, San Francisco.
KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time Shown is PST

Tuesday
5:00 p. m.—Hay Harrington's Orch., KPO, KOW; Are You a Missing Heir, KSL; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJN; News, KOIN; Stars of Today, KGW; Afternoon Dances, KNX; Musical Portraits, KOMO.

5:30 p. m.—The Nature of the Enemy, KSL; Clute Roberts Reports, KEX, KGO; Horace Heidt's Treasure Chest, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Harry W. Flannery, KNX, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR.

6:00 p. m.—Tommy Riggs, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Green Hornet, KEX; Voice of Victory, KGO; Dance Time, KJR.

6:30 p. m.—John Nesbitt and Meredith Wilson's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; Cheers from the Camps, KNX, KOIN; Inevitable Mr. Sand, KGO, KJR; News, KEX.

7:00 p. m.—Counter Spy, KGO, KEX, KJR; Cheers from the Camps, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Date with Judy, KPO, KOMO, KGW.

7:30 p. m.—Tommy Dorsey's Orch., KPO, KOW, KOMO; Red Ryder, KGO, KJR, KEX; Talks, KSL, KOIN; Time Out for Melody, KNX.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Morgan Beatty, KGO, KJR, KEX; Fred Waring's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO.

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

8:30 p. m.—Information Please, KGO, KEX, KJR; Are You a Missing Heir, KNX, KOIN; Johnny Presents, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—News, Jerry Wald's Orch., KSL, KSL, KOIN; News Here and Abroad, KGO; Adventures of the Thin Man, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Musical, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Mellow Moods, KGO, KJR; Raffles, KNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KEX.

10:00 p. m.—Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:30 p. m.—Sports, KSL, KNX; Harry Owens' Hawaiiana, KOMO; Freddy Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR; Broadway Driveway, KEX; War Time Women, KOIN.

11:00 p. m.—Swing Your Partner, KPO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KNX; Dance Orch., KOIN; Reverses, KOMO.

Wednesday
5:00 p. m.—H. V. Kaltenborn, KPO, KSL, KOIN; Flying Patrol, KEX.

PRICE CEILINGS ON SERVICES TO BE KEPT FOR OPA

Retailers of Consumer Services Required To Preserve Records on March Trade.

Seattle—(Spl.)—With the application July 1 of price ceilings to a great majority of consumer services, the state director of the Office of Price Administration has announced that each retailer of such services will be required to preserve all existing records for OPA, relating to pricing methods and charges used during March, 1942, the price level freezing date.

September 1, 1942, a listing of the consumer services, which are made in connection with commodities, must be prepared and kept for examination at any time by OPA or any person during ordinary business hours. A duplicate of this listing must be filed with the local War Price and Rationing Board by September 10.

Must Show Ceiling
The record must indicate the highest prices which the retailer charged for a consumer service during March. The pricing method used must be shown and a description of all customary allowances, discounts and other price differentials, which were in effect in March and which now will remain the ceiling prices.

The consumer services price ceilings come under Maximum Price Regulation No. 165. Since May 18, almost all retail commodities have had price ceilings, based generally upon the highest retail price for which each store keeper sold or offered for sale such items in March. Commodity ceilings were frozen under the General Maximum Price Regulation.

In general, the ceilings are frozen on services in connection with a commodity, in contrast to services in connection with a person, which are exempt. Commodity services include family laundry, dry cleaning, shoe repairing, automobile repairing, and various household repair work.

Exemptions include: services of an employee to his employer, professional services of a physician or lawyer, common carrier or public utility services, insurance and underwriting, and services relating solely to real property.

Detail information on General Maximum Price Regulation 165 can be obtained from the State Office of Price Administration.

Heavy Truck Sales
Cut to 500 Month

Washington, July 7.—(AP)—The nation's supply of new heavy trucks is so low that sales have been cut from 1,600 a month to 500, the office of defense transportation reported today.

Only 6,000 new trucks weighing two tons or more remain in the government-controlled pool for civilian use, the ODT said in a statement urging truck operators to conserve their equipment.

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—The Job For Him

Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

By Al Capp

By Hess

THE NEBBS—Shopping Trip

Keep 'Em Rolling at Ashland Roller Rink

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

Beckwith Called

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Queen Wilhelmina Visits America



Queen Wilhelmina (right), of the Netherlands, visited with her daughter, Princess Juliana, and her grandchildren, Beatrix (left), 4, and Irene, 2, at Lee, Mass., where the princess is stopping.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



FRANK LEIGHT, N.Y. POLICEMAN, DID 100 CONSECUTIVE SIT-UPS WHILE HOLDING 10 LBS.

GEORGE ABERNETHY—first governor of Oregon—REFUSED TO ACCEPT A SALARY, AND PERSONALLY FINANCED A WAR WITH HOSTILE INDIANS! HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ORGANIZED EVEN BEFORE OREGON BECAME A U.S. TERRITORY, AND USED THE LAWS OF IOWA... THE ONLY CODE AVAILABLE IN BOOK FORM THERE! 1840's...

TOMORROW—TOMBSTONE CELLAR!

MAIL DOPE
It is interesting to recall that in the days of open cockpit flying, airline passengers had to don flying suits and helmets with goggles before making a trip!

STRONG COP
Frank Leight, according to Gord Venables, noted strength authority, was runner up in the 1940 "Mr. America" contest—a competition to uncover the best built American man. Today Leight is an outstanding American strongman.

BUND CHIEF HELD AS DRAFT DODGER

New York, July 7.—(AP)—Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, described by federal authorities as the former fuhrer of the German-American Bund in this country, was held in \$50,000 bail today on a federal charge of violating the selective service act.

The 36-year-old Kunze, arrested only a few days ago in Mexico and returned to this country in great secrecy, was arraigned before Federal Judge George C. Sweeney on the charge of failing to notify his local draft board of his whereabouts.

Kunze is under indictment by a Hartford, Conn., federal grand jury on a charge of violation of the 1917 espionage act. For this reason Assistant U. S. Attorney Howard Corcoran sought and obtained the high bail.

Obviously nervous, coatless, but wearing a vest and a faded brown shirt, Kunze was flanked by federal bureau of investigation men during his arraignment.

Draft Evader's Dad Also Given Sentence

Seattle, July 7.—(AP)—Fred Langenbach, 63, who aided his 22-year old son Floyd, to evade the draft, was sentenced today by Federal Judge Lloyd L.

Black to serve 15 months in the McNeil Island penitentiary.

Pointing out that Langenbach had "made a criminal out of his own son," Judge Black imposed a sentence four months greater than that recommended by the prosecutor. He said he only gave 15-months because the defendant was in ill health.

The son still is being held on a charge of failing to register for the draft.

PA MAKES GOOD WHEN MA FINED

Roseburg, Ore., July 7.—(AP)—Mrs. Gladys Tillman of Klamath Falls was busily engaged in fishing on the North Umpqua river Sunday when State Policeman Fred L. Perry approached and asked to see her angler's license.

"Start talking," she told her husband, who was fishing nearby, by the officer related.

The husband, E. H. Tillman, informed Perry, the latter said, that he had told Mrs. Tillman and Eva Mae Dixon, also a member of the party, to go ahead and fish, even though they lacked licenses and he would pay their fines if they were caught.

He carried out his promise by appearing in court this morning before complaints were fully prepared and paid \$50 covering the \$25 fines imposed on each of the women.

BECKWITH CALLED
Salem, July 7.—(AP)—Commander John Beckwith, U. S. N., Portland, attached to state selective service headquarters, said today he has been ordered by the navy to report for duty at Newport, R. I.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Which secret? 2. Son of one's parent; abbr. 3. Sprouts 4. Palm fly 5. Southern 6. Quantity of medicine 7. Roman bronze 8. Operatic solo 9. Gone by 10. Expert on but-terflies and moths 11. Phylis ending 12. Negative 13. Ruling implement 14. Symbol for 15. Short for a man's name 16. Intense 17. New Zealand 18. Having rags; low color 19. Aulic 20. Prepared for the 21. Large mass of 22. Son of one's parent; abbr. 23. Palm fly 24. Roman bronze 25. Symbol for silver 26. Gone by 27. Purpose 28. Biblical king 29. Metric land measure 30. Medieval playing cards 31. Minute particles 32. On account of 33. New Zealand 34. Black blue 35. East Indian 36. Part of a church 37. English letter 38. Feminine name 39. Profit 40. Roman saint 41. Metaphorical rocks 42. Part of a church 43. English letter 44. Down 45. Slight-of-hand performer 46. Thrill back 47. Taro roots 48. Part of a plant 49. Serpent 50. Surgical thread 51. Swiss canton 52. Throatless heartless 53. Glut 54. Pasture 55. Silk worm 56. Dutch city 57. Skat 58. Black 59. Exact blank 60. Greenland 61. Demolish 62. Anglo-Saxon assembly 63. Pertaining to bodies at rest 64. Early English 65. Dental's title 66. Mountain 67. Comb form 68. Palm cockatoo 69. Doglike 70. County in New York 71. Throat of sea 72. At dice 73. Newsworthy 74. Himalayan snow-capped 75. Before 76. Soft food 77. Part of eye

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

1. Down 2. Slight-of-hand performer 3. Thrill back 4. Taro roots 5. Part of a plant 6. Serpent 7. Surgical thread 8. Swiss canton 9. Throatless heartless 10. Glut 11. Pasture 12. Silk worm 13. Dutch city 14. Skat 15. Black 16. Exact blank 17. Greenland 18. Demolish 19. Anglo-Saxon assembly 20. Pertaining to bodies at rest 21. Early English 22. Dental's title 23. Mountain 24. Comb form 25. Palm cockatoo 26. Doglike 27. County in New York 28. Throat of sea 29. At dice 30. Newsworthy 31. Himalayan snow-capped 32. Before 33. Soft food 34. Part of eye

LI'L ABNER—When Greek Meets Greek



THE NEBBS—Shopping Trip



OR—WE FIGHTS



MAN T' MAN!!



YOU'LL SOON BE UP TO NEBBS PROPERTY



YES, AND THEN THE FUN STARTS



HI, RUON! WHAT'S THE BIG RUSH



HE'S ACTING PECULIAR



I'LL SHOW MY READERS WHAT FINE PROGRESS YOU'RE MAKING



I HOPE THIS TUXEDO DON'T SHOW NO WRINKLES



HE'S ACTING PECULIAR



HE'S ACTING PECULIAR

