MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 27

'Just Nervous'

ALL along Joyce had told herself that Ward Allen could not have killed Clarke, but this, she realized now, was simply because such a conclusion was the one she wanted to believe. There was no logic in such a belief; she was trying to reason with her emotions. If Ward was found guilty, Delia's happiness, her life even, would be ruined; therefore Ward was not guilty. And yet . .

"Even if he did," Thorndike was sayin, "we're all going to stick by him. We'll see him through this."

"If he killed him he was justified," Delia said resolutely. "He must have had good reason to. I won't believe he did and even if I'm wrong it won't make any difference. I love him."

"Well, it's no good worrying about it yet," Thorndike said.

He pulled up in front of Delia's apartment house.

Joyce and Delia got out and thanked him. When they entered the foyer they found Jack Fenner waiting for them. He looked very neat and well-groomed, his hat was in his hand, and his upward-slanting eyes observed them deliberately.

"I got here a little early," he said.

They went upstairs, taking off hats and coats and settling down in the living room. Delia got a box of cigarettes and an ashtray and put them on the table beside Fenner's chair, and he watched her move about, his smile of approval constant.

Conversationally the going was awkward for the next few minutes. They talked of this and that, and Fenner asked Joyce where Kent was, and she explained, and the quiet crept up on them again.

"You haven't told him?" Fenner asked.

"About this?" Joyce said. "No, I told you I wouldn't."

Delia stood up and walked over to the windows. Joyce and Fenner watched her and when she became aware of their inspection her face twisted in a rueful smile and came back.

"Just nervous," she said.

"That's okay," Fenner said, "you've got a right to be."

"You'd like a drink, wouldn't you?"

"Now that you mention it," said Fenner, grinning, "I think I would."

"I can get it," Joyce said.

"In one of the lower cupboards," Delia said.

Fenner pulled himself from the chair. "I'll go with you."

In the kitchen Joyce found a bottle of Scotch. "I'll get you some ice."

"Never mind," Fenner said. "Ice dilutes it."

Long Wait

HE poured whisky in the glass and added some water from the faucet. He rolled some of the mixture around in his mouth, said: "Ahh," and drank. Leaning against the sink, he held the glass up and studied it.

"When're you going to tell me the rest of it?"

The question brought Joyce up with a start.

"But I've already told you."

He looked at her, one brow up.

"Have you?" he said; then, removing the pressure of his glance. "All right. Whenever you're ready."

They went back to the living room and found Delia pacing the floor. Joyce sat down and glanced at her watch. It was ten minutes of twelve.

"You know what you're going to say?" Fenner was watching Delia and she stopped pacing. "You have the envelope?"

"Oh!" Delia put her hand to her mouth. "But I haven't." She looked at Joyce. "I mean—"

Fenner stiffened and his eyes struck sparks. "Wait a minute! What is this? You tell me—"

"She can get it," Joyce said.

"How long'll it take?"

"Twenty minutes."

"Oh," Fenner said slowly. "So you've got it?"

Joyce started to deny this but changed her mind. "Yes."

Fenner leaned back. "Okay," he said.

Joyce looked at her watch. Twelve o'clock. Delia looked at her watch.

"It's time," she said.

Fenner finished his drink and they waited. The quiet expanded until it became stifling. Delia could not sit still for more than a minute at a time, and finally Joyce could no longer bear to look at her. Twelve ten, now; twelve eleven, twelve twelve.

The sound of the telephone bell was a physical shock to Joyce, jarring her nerves so that for the first second or two she could not move. Neither could Delia. She gasped and the blood drained from her face and she looked helplessly at Fenner.

"All right," he said, a snap in his voice. "This may be it." He came out of his chair, touching her shoulder.

Joyce watched her lift the instrument, heard her say: "Yes," and then froze on the edge of her chair, holding her breath.

No Dice

IT took forever for the next word to come.

"Oh," Delia said, and that was enough to tell Joyce something was wrong. Never had she heard such relief come from one small syllable.

"Yes," Delia said, color tinting her cheeks again. "All right. . . . Thank you, Uncle Dean."

She hung up and smiled weakly.

"False alarm, huh?" Fenner disgusted.

"He said it was all right," she told Joyce. "About the lawyer."

Joyce leaned back, aware that her muscles were aching. There was a dampness in her palms, and she was angry with herself for letting the suspense do such things to her.

"I was scared to death," Delia said.

"I'll say you were," Fenner said.

At one o'clock Fenner stood up.

"I guess it's no dice," he said. "Something must have gone wrong with his plans."

A look of alarm came over Delia's face. "But what will we do?"

"Nothing."

"You think he's not going to call?"

"There's no good in hanging around for it. We don't know what the score is so there's no use—"

"But if he goes to the police?"

"Why should he?" Fenner went for his coat and hat. "If he wanted the envelope the other day he must still want it. Something made him change his mind about calling at twelve. He may have seen me or he may be playing cagey."

"You think he'll call again?"

"I do, but we can't tell when. I'll stay close to the office the rest of the day and if you should get word, let me know. It'll take you a half hour to get the envelope anyway and I can be around by that time. The thing is, you've waited an hour and he didn't keep his date, and if he should call and find you out he'll know why and wait until he can call again. It's okay for you to wait if you want to but there's no point in my sticking around until you have something."

"I suppose you're right" Delia said, "but just the same I think I'll stay right here."

Joyce picked up her hat and coat. "Come on," she ordered. "Lunch."

Delia shook her head. "I'm going to wait."

"Not on an empty stomach you're not," Joyce said firmly. "You may be here all afternoon

To be continued

FILM STAR PROMOTED

Sacramento, Calif., July 13—(AP)—James Stewart, the screen star who began his army career as a private, is now a first lieutenant in the air corps.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

NO COMMUNIST BAR

San Francisco, July 13—(AP)—The communist party cannot be barred from the ballot in California under present laws, the state supreme court ruled unanimously today.

Reds Battle Twin Attacks

Bitter fighting was reported as Red Army defenders (indicated by black oblongs), attempted to hold back reinforced German drives in the Voronezh (1), and Staryi Oskol (2) areas. Germans reported strong Red forces encircled behind the Voronezh front.

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

Monday

5:00 p. m.—Don Vinning, KPO; Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN, KNX; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Transitunes, KOMO.

5:30 p. m.—News, KGO; Voice, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Harry W. Flannery, KNX, KOIN; Here Comes the Band, KEX; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Melodies Moderne, KSL.

6:00 p. m.—Radio Theater, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Minstrel Melodies, KPO, KOMO; Goldman Band Concert, KEX, KJR; Victory Army, KGO; Oregon On Guard, KGW.

6:30 p. m.—Music by White, KGO; Dr. I. Q., Jim McCain, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, KEX; Greater Washington Hour, KJR.

7:00 p. m.—Your Blind Date, KGO, KEX, KJR; Contented Hour, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Freddy Martin's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL.

7:30 p. m.—Vaughn Monroe's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Cavalcade of America, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Lightning Jim, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Earl Godwin, KGO, KGW; Lum and Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR, KEX.

8:15 p. m.—Abe Lyman's Orch., KOIN; Story Dramas, KPO, KOMO, KJR; Time Out for Melody, KNX.

8:30 p. m.—Hawthorne House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Unlimited Horizons, KGO, KEX, KJR; Jimmie Fidler, KGO, KEX, KJR Gay Nineties, KNX, KSL, KOIN.

9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, Here and Abroad, KGO; I Was There, KNX, KOIN; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Treasury Star Parade, KJR Sports, KSL.

9:30 p. m.—Hollywood Showcase, KNX, KOIN Unlimited Horizons, KOMO; News, KSL, KJR, KEX; Let There Be Music, KGO Your Mayor Speaks, KGW; Toast To American Allies, KPO.

10:00 p. m.—Nat'l. Radio Forum, KGO, KEX, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO Masterworks of Music, KSL Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Henderson-La Vere Piano Team, KGO, KJR; Sports, KNX, KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; War time women, KOIN; Ice Follies, KPO.

11:00 p. m. — Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KSL, KOIN; Music and Moonlight, KPO; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KNX; Reveries, KOMO; Dance Orch., KGW.

Tuesday

5:00 p. m.—Ray Harrington's Orch., KPO, KGW; Are You a Missing Heir, KSL; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; News, KOIN; Stars of KGO, KJR; News, KOIN; Stars of KNX; Musical Portrait, KOMO.

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

6:00 p. m.—Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou, 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, KOMO, KGW; Cheers from the Camp, 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, KOMO, KPO, KGW.

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

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

8:15 p. m.—Story Dramas, KGW, KOMO; Glen Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL KOIN; Lum and Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; Music Salon, KPO.

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, KSL, KOIN; News Here and Abroad, KGO; Adventures of the Thin Man, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Musicale, KJR; American Melody Hour, Knx.

9:30 p. m.—Over the Top, KGO, KJR; Jerry Wald's Orch., KNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KEX.

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

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

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

Williams Creek

Williams Creek, July 13—(Spl.) — E. U. Provolt, who passed away at Grants Pass after a long illness was buried in the Sparlin Cemetery July 3. Mr. Provolt was the last of the brothers of an old time family of this community. Two sisters survive. The Provolt postoffice was named for the family. Pallbearers were Louie Hanson, Ed Roberts, George Fields, Chas. Fields, Harold Whitestle and Herman Messenger.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Shepman of Santa Cruz, Calif., are spending their vacation at the home of Mrs. Shepman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilkinson. Mrs. Wilkinson who broke her ankle several weeks ago is now able to take a few steps.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Youngblood and small sons spent the weekend at Union Creek.

A party of 30 friends and neighbors enjoyed a picnic on the beautiful lawn of the Blodgett home Sunday after Sunday school. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lundy, Billy Black, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Smith and children, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Sparlin, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roberts, Tom Gainsford, Mrs. Ray Topping, Wanda and Linden, Colleen Wonock, Howard and Dick Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Clem Blodgett and Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Abel Blodgett and three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Blodgett and Eunice and Jimmie Carter of Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs Ivan Lundy have recently bought the old Hartley place. They are from the Medford captonment area.

Fred Lichen who recently sold his place near Provolt has purchased the Bar III ranch near Murphy from Mr. Barry.

Mrs. Bertha Carter of Vancouver, Wash., visited last week with her aunt, Mrs. A. L. Blodgett and family. She was returning home from San Francisco, where she visited her oldest son, who is in the navy, before his leaving for duty.

Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Olafson and son, George, of Pasadena, Calif., visited Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lundy last week.

Mrs. Beatrice Lawder and son, Lawrence, and two friends from Sacramento, Calif., are visiting Mrs. Lawder's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Lewman.

Mr. and Mrs. Louie Hanson spent the Fourth with Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roberts.

Mr. Hilton hurt his back recently when his foot caught in the stirrup as he was getting off his horse and he was thrown on his back.

Mrs. Teel and baby of San Francisco, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mullin.

Of the local boys in the service Harold Vencill and Jim Hyde are at Sheppard Field, Texas, and Delmar Sorrels at Wichita Falls, Tex.

At the school election June 15, Floyd Smith was reelected school director and Pauline Varner clerk.

About 25 ladies and girls attended a picnic luncheon and shower at the home of Mrs. Tom Swearengin for Louise Gray, the recent bride of Elmer Gray. She received many useful and beautiful presents.

The high school class of the union Sunday school held awiener roast recently at the home of Mrs. Harry Cougle. Miss Eunice Blodgett assisted the hostess, Mrs. Cougle.

Big Applegate

Big Applegate, July 11—(Spl.)—Chester Kubli of Junction City, recently purchased the Claud Hawkins ranch of 300 acres on Thompson Creek as a cattle ranch. It will be remembered that Mr. Kubli also bought the Edward Kubli home here a few months ago, and he expects to establish his residence here in the future. Mr. Hawkins and his aged mother expect to live in San Francisco.

Mrs. Leona Little and daughter, Beulah, have returned to their home near Ruch after a week's motor trip to Alva, Okla., where they visited friends and relatives. They were accompanied by Mrs. Little's daughters, Helen and Wanda, students at Southern Oregon College of Education, and by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Don Little of Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Matteson of Los Angeles are guests of the former's father, H. D. Matteson, at Applegate.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Taylor have returned here after a brief motor trip to Washington, where they visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cleaves at Grandview, and Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Taylor at Vancouver.

Frank Childers of Medford took over the Big Applegate mail route July 1, having been given the four-year contract to carry the mail, succeeding Oscar Lewis of Jacksonville. The route also covers Sterling and Little Applegate. Mr. Childers, who has had fourteen years' experience as a mail carrier, recently completed contracts on Grants Pass, Crescent City and Eureka routes.

Wayne Kubli of Seattle is spending several weeks here with his grandmother, Mrs. Maud Kubli.

The Bible conference, in session last week at the Oregon Christian Center at Murphy, closed Sunday. The Murphy group held a basket dinner and service July 4.

Mrs. Helen Davis and sons, accompanied by Mrs. Marion Soderman of Klamath Falls, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Turner of Fort Klamath, Miss Dorma Cox of this community and rMs. Grace Cook, house guest of Mrs. Davis, have returned from a week's camping trip to the Umpqua.

Corporal Dow Lewis returned to Camp Roberts, Cal., Saturday, after spending a 13-day furlough here with his mother, Mrs. Gerald Buck. Corporal Lewis, who is in the field artillery, also visited his father, Ervin Lewis of Elk Creek, and his aunt, Mrs. Frank Ditsworth of Prospect.

Frends here were sorry to learn of the death of Kasper Kubli of Missouri Flat Friday, which occurred after a long illness. Burial took place at Missouri Flat Sunday. Mr. Kubli was born in 1870 in the community in which he was living, and had spent his life farming. He is survived by his wife, Emma Cook Kubli, and three sons, Zern, of Northern California; Evan of Central Point, and Vance of Eagle Point.

Safe After Raid

Lieut. Leo Hawel (above), of Seattle, Wash., was among Air Force crews which made the first raid on German held territory from British bases.

Climax

Climax, July 13.—(Spl.)—Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kenney entertained at dinner the Fourth for Robert and Marie Hill of Ashland, Carl Hurson and Ben Oswald of Central Point and Mr. and Mrs. Owen Austin and family of Prospect. In the evening all repaired to the Wertz home for games and dancing.

Miss Roberta Wertz has returned home after the five weeks' course at summer school at SOCE.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Winningham and family and Mrs. Meda Comstock spent the week-end at the ranch here.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd MacKeer of Hilt, Calif., spent the week-end with Mrs. Ilima Gold.

Crystal Gold is working in Medford.

Climax mail route has been discontinued for the present and patrons here receive mail in Medford.

Ted Kenney, who works at Trail, spent the week end with his family here.

Haying is the order of the day and there is a very good crop.

Mrs. I. M. Wertz of Anderson, Cal., spent the past two weeks visiting at the home of her son, L. H. Wertz.

Milroy Charley, Phil Wertz and Doug. Galbreath of Eagle Point visited at the Wertz home Sunday.

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

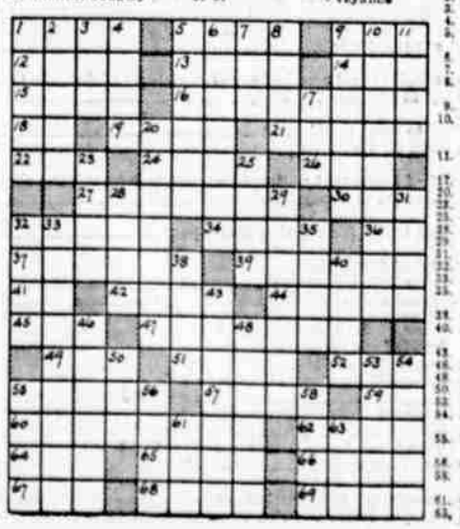
SUBURBAN HEIGHTS by GLUYAS WILLIAMS

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Kind of fish
5. Festival
9. Harden
12. Present
13. Vice
14. Corroded
15. Diluted
16. Drug supposed to banish pain and sorrow
18. Among
19. Mimic
21. Principal lines or conduits
22. Oriental commander
24. Roughly elliptical
26. Golf instructor
27. Pertaining to the ocean
30. Masculine name
33. Dwell
34. Biblical country
36. Hypothetical force
37. Give another title to
39. Raised dough
41. Broad street: abbr.
42. Variable star in Cetus
44. Commits depredations
45. Corded cloth
47. Permission
49. Kind of moss
51. Prophet
52. Pouch
53. Sing
57. Disguise
59. Leave
60. Trouble maker
62. Close
64. Edible seed
65. Square root of 81
66. Any plant of the iris family
67. Tree
68. Legal conveyance
69. Bronzes in the sun

DOWN
1. Seat
2. Color
3. Scotch chemist
4. Greek letter
5. City in New York state
6. Mean
7. Edge
8. Philippine shrub
9. Cutting wit
10. Science of the natural races of man
11. Pers. used in golf
17. Short sleep
20. Controversial
23. Whirl
25. Covers
28. Kind of cheese
29. Twinles
31. Roman date
32. Sandarac tree
33. Drinks
35. Early part of day
38. God of love
40. Meshed fabrics
43. Windflower
46. Social outcast
48. Burned
50. Secured
52. Another time
54. Measures of wood
55. Fine Cuban tobacco
56. Country
58. Form into a fabric
61. Gravel
63. Epoch

Solution Of Yesterday's Puzzle



STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX

FAST CATS

The cheetah, trained by sportsmen in Europe, is often called the "hunting leopard" because it is used in the chase both in Africa and India. Resembling a dog in many respects, its claws are short and stubby, and are not retractile like those of other felines. In India the cheetah is trained and handled like a falcon, being blindfolded and lashed until game is sighted, whereupon it darts away and soon brings down even the fleetest of antelopes. Probably the fastest animal in the world, it has been clocked at speeds up to 70 miles an hour over 100-yard courses!

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Inside Tip Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

LI'L ABNER—When Strong Yokums Weep !! By Al Capp

THE NEBBS—Hold Everything By Hess