

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Cox

Chapter 24

Joyce Takes Over

JOYCE was reading in bed. "You must have had a busy night," she said.

"I did," Murdoch answered. "In a way." He began to undress, conscious of her inspection and trying to make up his mind about a lot of things. "As a matter of fact I was out at Hester's."

"Oh?" The word came on a softly rising inflection.

"She wanted to talk about Ward Allen."

"I see. And what did she have to say?"

"Plenty. I've got the dope on his South American adventures."

"Oh," Joyce said again. It was a different word entirely this time, and her glance was uncertain.

"I'll tell you about it if you can stay awake," he said.

She did not answer right away, but lay there watching him, her brow creased in thought and trying not to think too much about Hester.

"Kent," she said finally. "Why don't you do something about it?"

"About what?"

"The murder."

"What could I do?"

"You could try."

"To solve it, you mean?" He shook his head, his grin sardonic. "Oh, no. I don't know anything about the case and I don't want to know."

Joyce watched him, saying nothing. There was, she saw, little use in arguing with him now. When he got stubborn about anything there was not much she could do. He'd made up his mind that this murder was none of his business—whether because of Hester or from sheer inertia—and that was that. Only it wasn't so simple. If he could know what was really happening—if she could tell him the truth—

Her thoughts hung there a moment. Should she tell him? They needed help, she and Della. And yet, even if she told him it might do no good. Unless she could lead him into saying that he would at least try to find a solution—

"You're not afraid Hester has something to do with it, are you?"

"Certainly not."

"But still you don't want to know anything about the murder. You won't try to solve it even if I ask you."

"Look—"

"You won't, will you?"

"No," Murdoch said bluntly.

Decision

"VERY well," Joyce turned and patted the pillows. "Then I will."

"You will what?"

"See what I can do about finding out who killed Perry Clarke."

"Oh, no, you won't."

"But I will," Joyce said sweetly.

"I'm not sure I can help much, but I intend to try."

He came to the foot of the bed and scowled down at her. "You stay out of it. You think murder is some game?"

"Quite the contrary but—"

"Whoever killed Clarke will pay with his life if he's caught. That's all he can lose. His life. If it means killing somebody else to save him he'll kill again. You happen to stumble across something that puts him in a spot and what do you think that makes you?"

"A good detective."

"His face darkened. 'I'm telling you, Joyce—'

"I hear you."

"I know you do," Joyce said calmly. "But you won't do anything unless you will you?"

"No, I won't."

"All right. I just wanted to be sure."

She lay back and pulled up the covers.

Lioretta, the maid who came to the Murdock's every morning but Sunday to wash dishes and clean, answered the telephone and found Joyce in the bedroom brushing her hair.

"Telephone," Lioretta said. "It's Miss Stewart."

Joyce said: "All right, thank you," and stood up. She was wearing a plaid dress, predominantly brown and simply styled. There was a little collar and a leather belt and buttons all down the front, and the skirt had pleats that gave her plenty of leg room for her easy graceful stride.

"Oh, Joyce," Della said, her voice agitated. "The lieutenant wants me to come see him. At police headquarters. And Joyce—her voice choked—"they've arrested Ward."

A sinking sensation came over Joyce.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, Uncle Dean's on his way over here now. He's going down with me. But I want you, too, Joyce. Will you come?"

"Of course, darling. If you want me."

"Oh, I do. I need you. We'll come by for you in twenty minutes or so." She hurried on after a breath.

"And we've got to hurry Joyce. We've got to be back here to meet Mr. Fenner at eleven thirty."

Joyce glanced at the clock on the mantel and saw that it was nearly nine thirty. There had been a telephone call for Kent shortly after eight from McGrath, the managing editor of the Courrier, and he had gone out in a hurry, muttering something about an assignment in Providence. There'd been an explosion, he'd said; aboard some ship. He might not be back until late.

She had a feeling of things closing in on her, of getting beyond her depth.

Such were her thoughts as she waited for Della and Dean Thorndike. They were still in her mind when they went up the steps and into the vaulted foyer at police headquarters and snaked to the officer at the information desk.

They waited until a man came to get them; then they rode up in the elevator and were taken to a room adjoining Lieutenant Bacon's office. It was, she saw, a conference room of sorts with a long table in the center, a flat-topped desk at one end, and eight or ten chairs, everything in golden oak and well scarred.

Lieutenant Bacon was seated at one end of the table, his back to the desk. Next to him was a well-dressed man with horn-rimmed glasses and not much hair, although he had a young-looking face. Bacon introduced him as O'Conner, from the District Attorney's office, and asked them to be seated.

"I hardly expected so many of you," he said, eyes on Della.

"I asked them," he said.

"And I want to know about Ward Allen," Thorndike added. "Where is he? Has he asked for a lawyer?"

"Why has he been arrested?" Della said.

Bacon answered calmly. "He's not actually arrested. It might be called protective custody. The thing is we've unearthed a few facts that need explaining. Maybe it's just as well you all came."

By the way, Mr. Thorndike, what about those b nids?"

To be continued

Lana Turner Elopes Again



Lana Turner, movie actress, and Stephen Crane, former stock broker of Chicago and New York, with whom she is shown, eloped by plane to Las Vegas, Nev., and were married by Judge George E. Marshall, who also married Lana to Artie Shaw about two years ago.

On the Radio Chains

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) 630, Portland; KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle; KXN (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles; KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver; KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland; KOMO (NBC-Red) 350, Seattle; KPO (NBC-Red) 680, San Francisco; KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time Shown in PST

Monday

5:00 p. m.—Don Vinning, KPO; Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Transitions, KOMO.

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

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

6:30 p. m.—Paul Wall, KGO; Dr. I. Q., Jom McClain, KJO, KOW; KOMO; News, KEX; Greater Washington Hour, KJR.

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

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

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

8:15 p. m.—Ray Kinney's Orch., KOIN; Comedians' Story, Drama, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Lum and Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR; News, KSL; Time Out for Melody, KNX.

8:30 p. m.—Hawthorne House, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Unlimited Horizons, KEX, KGO, KJR; Major Hoople, KGO, KJR; Gay Nineties Revue, KPO, KOIN, KSL.

9:00 p. m.—Telephone Hour, KPO, KOW, 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, KOIN; Unlimited Horizons, KOMO, KGW, News, KGO, KEX; Let There Be Music, KGO; Toast to American Allies, KPO.

10:00 p. m.—Natl Radio Forum, KGO, KEX, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Masterworks of Music, KSL; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN.

10:30 p. m.—Henderson La Vere Piano Team, KGO, KJR; Sports, KNX, KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KOW; War Time Women, KOIN; Ice Pollies, 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.

Tuesday

5:00 p. m.—Ray Harrington's Orch., KPO, KOW; Are You a Missing Heir, KSL.

Suburban Heights

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

THE WOMEN'S CLUB HAD TO MOVE THEIR AFTERNOON MEETINGS AHEAD AN HOUR, BECAUSE IT WAS TAKING THE MEMBERS SO LONG TO UNSCRAMBLE THEIR BICYCLES AND DECIDE WHOSE WAS WHOSE THAT THE MEN WERE NEVER GETTING THEIR DINNER ON TIME.

(Reprinted by the Mail Tribune, Inc.)



GLUYAS WILLIAMS

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Invite

4. Perceived through the ear

8. Black bird

12. Greek letter

13. Narrow back street

14. Preceding night

15. Moon

17. Insect

19. English letter

21. Out longwise

23. Large fish

24. Division of body

25. Natural sweet

26. Division of body

27. Plover

28. Pret

31. Symbol for sun

32. Shelter

33. Banter

DOWN

34. Goddess of the harvest

35. Exits

36. Legal tribunal

37. Pain

38. Science treating of the ear

40. Funeral place

41. Sweet biscuit

42. Salad plant

43. Inevitable

45. Broad smile

46. Thine

48. Southern constellation

49. Pertaining to the motions of bodies

50. Flying mammal

51. Angry

52. Frog humming bird

53. Mail liquor

54. Rattler

57. Affirmative

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

DOWN

1. Part of a church

2. Having least

3. Omit

ACROSS

4. Discovered of a famous comet

5. Island in New York harbor

6. Disoriented

7. Exposure

8. Colorful agent

9. Go ashore

10. Declare

11. Period of time

12. Ridge of clouds

13. Food fish

14. Arrow

15. Vertical

16. Approach to a mine

17. Spout

18. Spout

19. Indistinct

20. Musical characters

21. Skin of a certain animal

22. Social

23. Organization

24. Flattened at the poles

25. Whimsical reader

26. Greek island

27. Pious, false

28. River in Russia

29. Edible tubers

30. Grandson of

31. Largest river in Scotland

KSL: Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KOW; Afternoon Drama, KNX; Newspaper of the Air, KOIN; Musical Portraits, KOMO.

5:30 p. m.—Hobby Lobby, KSL; Clete Roberts Reports, KEX, KGO; Morace Heidi's Treasure Chest, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Harry W. Planetary, KNX, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR.

6:00 p. m.—Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Battle of the Saxes, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Green Hornet, KEX; Dance Time, KJR.

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

7:00 p. m.—Counter spy, KGO, KJR; Cheers from the Camps, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Date With Judy, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Air Base Hi Jinks, KEX.

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

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

8:15 p. m.—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Lum and Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR; Comedians' Story, Drama, KPO, KOMO; On Our Bandstand, KPO.

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

9:00 p. m.—Hobby Lobby, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Adventures of the Thin Man, KGO, KOW, KOMO; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Musicals, KJR.

9:30 p. m.—Over the Top, KGO, KJR; Roy Shield and Co., KOMO, KGW; Jerry Wald's Orch., KNX; News, KEX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.

10:00 p. m.—Sing for Dough, KGO, KEX, KJR; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KOW; News, KNX; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:30 p. m.—Sports, KSL; Harry Owens Hawaiians, KPO, KOMO; Freddy Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR, KEX; KEX; Comedians' Story, Drama, KPO, KOMO; On Our Bandstand, KPO.

10:50 p. m.—Swing Your Partner, KPO, KOW; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KNX; Dance Orch., KOIN; Reveries, KOMO.

CARGO AIRPLANES FROM SHIPYARDS KAISER PROPOSAL

Shipbuilding Wizard Suggests Aerial Route To Foil Submarines in Atlantic.

Portland, Ore., July 20.—(P)—Rear Admiral Howard L. Vickery, vice-chairman of the maritime commission, studied a proposal today to win the battle of the Atlantic with giant cargo-carrying airplanes built in shipyards.

Vickery, who warned in an interview yesterday that submarines are sinking ships faster than the United Nations can build them, received the proposal from Henry J. Kaiser, west coast shipbuilder, at the launching of another Liberty freighter at one of Kaiser's yards.

MAE WEST SEEKS DIVORCE DECREE

Los Angeles, July 20.—(AP)—

Mae West and her one-time vaudeville partner, Frank Wallace, planned today to end their marriage, a ceremony kept secret for years, then widely publicized.

Mae asked for a divorce on the ground of cruelty. Her complaint contained no specific charges.

Wallace, whom she married in Milwaukee, April 11, 1911, pleaded for separate maintenance of \$1,000 a month. He asked Superior Judge Walter Desmond for alimony on the representation he was destitute.

Mae, he contends, has a fortune of more than \$1,000,000, accumulated through her acting and producing on the stage and screen. Wallace was not represented by an attorney.

GOOD REASON

Fort Des Moines, Ia., July 20.—(P)—A woman phoned WAAC headquarters here for information on how to join the feminine army corps.

"My husband ran away and joined the army three years ago and I want to find him and give him a piece of my mind," she explained.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

AVG Pilots Celebrate Return to United States

Members of the American Volunteer Group, home after fighting the Japs in the skies over Asia, relaxed at Miami, Fla., after their long plane flight.

Left to right: Frank Jacobson, Racine, Wis.; Fritz Wolf, Shawano, Wis.; Jim Cross, Huntsville, Mo.; Group Leader George Burgard, Sunbury, Pa.; Millard L. Musgrove, San Diego, Cal.; James E. Regis, Bangor, Me.; Joe T. Jordan, Washington; H. G. Wylie, Hamilton Square, N. J.; G. B. McMillan, Winter Park, Fla. (standing rear); Henry Olson, Boltram, Minn. (standing rear); Hiram Revere of Miami, who played host (dressed in white), and Paul Frillman of Maywood, Ill., AVG chaplain.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

CHROMIUM—STRATEGIC WAR METAL—IS USED IN PRODUCING BOTH ARMOR-PIERCING BULLETS AND BULLET-PROOF ARMOR.

Submarines could not shoot down such a fleet, and with even slighter fighter protection, enemy airplanes could not hinder the air freighters, Kaiser said.

He added that there is not enough steel available now to keep all shipyards operating at capacity and proposed that the maritime commission turn nine yards—three on the Atlantic, three on the Pacific, and three on the gulf coast—to production of the planes.

He said shipyards could be converted easily.

TEMBLOR

One of the most severe and prolonged earthquakes on record took place in the lower Mississippi Valley from late 1811 through early 1812. Slight tremors were felt in New Orleans, 500 miles away, Detroit, 600 miles away, and Washington, D. C., 700 miles away. Reelfoot lake, in Tennessee, fourteen miles long and four and a half miles wide, was formed overnight and stocked with fish! Several smaller lakes were formed in Arkansas and Louisiana. If this region had been as settled then as it is today, appalling loss of life and destruction of property would undoubtedly have resulted!

Copyright 1942 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

THE NEBBS—Snakes Alive!

By HESS

I GOT A PLAN TO LOSE NEBS AWAY—WHISPER WHISPER—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

THAT'S GOOD—IF IT WORKS, WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE ROAD

WARRERS! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

I'VE CAMPED OUT OFTEN ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE A HARMLESS OLD BULL SNAKE

HED BE BETTER COMPANY THAN YOU OTHER REPTILES—TRY AGAIN, BOYS

By Al Capp

LI'L ABNER—What Do She Mean?

THROUGH THE WINDOW I SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE RAREST OF ALL OLD GRANDPAPPA'S CLOCK—THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE AT HOME—AND THE DOOR IS OPEN

DON'T GO IN THAR, STRANGER!

AY YU SHORE MUST BE A STRANGER—OR YOU WOULDN'T DAST GO IN THAR!

BUT MADAM—THIS HOUSE IS UNPROTECTED AND THERE'S A VERY VALUABLE CLOCK INSIDE—

STRANGER! THAT CLOCK IS AS SAFE AS EF IF WE'RE PROTECTED BY TH' WHOLE YEW-UNITED STATES ARMY!—BRR-A!!

By HESS

THE NEBBS—Snakes Alive!

By HESS

I GOT A PLAN TO LOSE NEBS AWAY—WHISPER WHISPER—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

THAT'S GOOD—IF IT WORKS, WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE ROAD

WARRERS! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

I'VE CAMPED OUT OFTEN ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE A HARMLESS OLD BULL SNAKE

HED BE BETTER COMPANY THAN YOU OTHER REPTILES—TRY AGAIN, BOYS

By HESS

THE NEBBS—Snakes Alive!

By HESS

I GOT A PLAN TO LOSE NEBS AWAY—WHISPER WHISPER—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

THAT'S GOOD—IF IT WORKS, WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE ROAD

WARRERS! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

I'VE CAMPED OUT OFTEN ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE A HARMLESS OLD BULL SNAKE

HED BE BETTER COMPANY THAN YOU OTHER REPTILES—TRY AGAIN, BOYS

By HESS

THE NEBBS—Snakes Alive!

By HESS

I GOT A PLAN TO LOSE NEBS AWAY—WHISPER WHISPER—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

THAT'S GOOD—IF IT WORKS, WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE ROAD

WARRERS! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE—THERE'S A DANGEROUS SNAKE OUTSIDE YOUR TENT—WHERE?

I'VE CAMPED OUT OFTEN ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE A HARMLESS OLD BULL SNAKE

HED BE BETTER COMPANY THAN YOU OTHER REPTILES—TRY AGAIN, BOYS

By HESS