

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Cox

Chapter 33 Surprise For Kent

PUZZLED, Kent stood very still. With every sense alert, he tried to project his perceptions through the darkness, and suddenly he had the feeling that someone was here. He listened, hearing nothing, then moved aside, away from the door and pressed the switch. After that there was nothing he could do but stare.

Smack in the middle of the double bed lay Jack Fenner, both pillows under his head and his face turned towards the windows. On the bedside table was a pack of cigarettes, a pitcher of water, an empty glass and a bottle of Scotch, half full.

"Well, now do you like that?" Murdock said aloud.

Nothing happened. He walked around the foot of the bed. Fenner's eyes were closed.

"Hey," he said, and stood there another moment or two, running his fingers through dark hair already tousled, frowning, watching the detective with mild annoyance. Finally he picked up the bottle of whisky and uncorked it. He held it under Fenner's nose.

Fenner stirred, cussing softly. He licked his lips and opened one eye; then he opened both and turned over on his back.

Without a word he reached for the bottle, Murdock put it back on the table. Fenner sighed loudly and grinned.

"It was a swell dream," he said. "All about a robbery in a distillery."

"Nuts," Murdock said. "You were playing possum."

"Ho-hum," said Fenner, stretching. "What time is it?"

"After three."

"My my."

Fenner reached for a cigarette and lit it, propping the pillows behind him. Murdock began to undress and his grin went away. A soberness came upon his face and trouble touched his eyes for he could no longer pretend that Jack Fenner was merely here as an overnight guest.

"What's up, Jack?"

"I guess they wanted a man in the house. We got in a little after one and sat around."

"Who you protecting them from?"

"The guy that killed Clarke. He was at it again tonight." Fenner hesitated and his voice was suddenly remote. "A guy I knew—Nick Hardacker. Joyce and the Stewart girl were in on it. They had a pretty rough time what with that and a couple of hours with the police. When I came home with them they were still jittery and I told 'em I'd stick around until you came. Your wife pushed me in here."

The Story

MURDOCK put on his robe and sat on the edge of the bed, trying to put down his bewilderment, to speak reasonably.

"What did Joyce and Della have to do with it?"

"Plenty."

"But how, damn it? And how did you get mixed up in it?"

"I'm working for them."

Murdock peered at him. "You're what?"

Fenner nodded. "I told your wife you'd probably find out about it."

"Go on."

"I told her you'd get sore too."

"Never mind that. What were you doing for them?"

Fenner cocked a brow at him. "Ordinarily a client's rights have to be protected."

"Oh, sure," Murdock said distastefully.

"—but this time it's okay. Joyce knew you'd find me here, so she said I'd better tell you the whole thing."

"Well, that's big of you both."

"I knew you'd get sore."

"I'm not sore but—"

"You want me to tell it or not?" Fenner waited; when he

saw he wouldn't be interrupted he said: "The way I get it is this

At first, as Fenner began to unfold the story, Murdock's reaction was one of resentment, but as the details began to pile up the feeling of resentment gave way to one of worry. He had known, of course, that Joyce had been anxious about Ward Allen and Della Stewart, but he'd had no idea that she would actually involve herself in the investigation without telling him.

Actually he had had no opinion on the murder at all. He had been so busy he'd had no time to think about it. But when he heard what had happened that night a feeling of alarm and dismay came over him. It was impossible now to ignore the threat of danger to Della and Joyce.

This Hardacker was a private dick? he asked when Fenner had finished. "Do the police know who he was working for?"

"They will," Fenner said. "They were trying to contact the girl that works for him when we left."

"Was he the man who hired the apartment across the hall from Clarke?"

"They don't know that yet either."

"How was Bacon?"

"Burning."

Enter Joyce

FENNER reached for the bottle of Scotch. He poured a little in his glass, added water. "You?" he asked.

Murdock shook his head. "I'll get a beer in a minute," he said, and his face was sombre and grooved with wrinkles at the brow.

For some moments he sat there trying to recall the things that Hester had told him in an effort to see how they fitted the story he had just heard. The result was a merry-go-round of thought and when he found no satisfactory answers his irritation began to mount again.

"A fine thing," he said. "Joyce running around getting messed up in a murder case and not even telling me about it."

"That's the way it goes," said Fenner.

"Why didn't she come to me in the first place? Why—"

"Because I promised Della I wouldn't," Joyce said through a crack in the door. "Can't come in now."

She came to Murdock and kissed him. She had on a navy blue dressing gown and her arms were hugging themselves in front of her so that the collar was high about her throat. Her smoky-blue eyes were soft with sleep and a flush lingered in her cheeks.

"Are you angry?"

"Certainly I'm angry," Murdock said.

Joyce sighed. "I was afraid you would be."

"And why not? You knew Della'd been at Clarke's place when I came home that first night."

"I knew it before that," Joyce said. "She was here, telling me about the envelope when you phoned."

Murdock waved his arms. "Is that something? I ask you? You hold out on me even after I'd told you all I knew, even told you what Hester said."

"I'd promised Della, Kent."

"So what? Am I the bogey man?"

"You're trying hard," Fenner said.

Murdock glared at him; then looked back at Joyce and found her eyes rebellious.

"I asked you to help," she said. "I asked you last night. But you couldn't be bothered, could you?"

"You said it was none of your business and you—"

"Why didn't you tell me the truth then? That would have been different."

"I couldn't tell you anything," Joyce said, "until I knew you'd help us."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:

5:00 p. m.—Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Musical Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Sur Les Boulevards, KEX, KJR; Voice of Victory, KGO.
5:30 p. m.—Masters of Music, KOMO, KGW; Death Valley Days, KSL; Cleo Roberts Reports, KGO, KEX; Harry W. Plannery, KNX, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Afternoon Dances, KNX; The Parade, KPO.
6:00 p. m.—Major Bowes Original Amateur Hour, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Musical Hall, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Sur Les Boulevards, KEX, KJR; Voice of Victory, KGO.
6:30 p. m.—Stage Door Canteen, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fifteen Minutes from Broadway, KGO, News, KEX; Armchair Cruise, KJR.
7:00 p. m.—How I Do It, KGO, KEX, KJR; Rudy Valley Show, KGO, KEX, KJR; The Fire Line, KNX, KOIN, KSL.
7:30 p. m.—Talks, KSL; Red Ryder, KGO, KEX, KJR; March of Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Time Out for Melody, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.
8:00 p. m.—Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Earl Godwin, KGO, KEX, KJR.
8:15 p. m.—String Ensemble, KOMO; Lum and Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL; Mokey Sisters, KGW; On Our Bandstand, KPO.
8:30 p. m.—Death Valley Days, KNX, KOIN; Panny Brice, KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Nation at War, KGO; Buy Washington, KJR; Flowers for the Living, KEX.
9:00 p. m.—News, KGW; News Here and Abroad, KGO, United, KSL, KEX; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Old Times, KJR; Company at Ease, KOIN; Romance Time, KOMO; Music for a Nickel, KPO; Maude's Dairy, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Moon River, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Freddy Martin's Orch., KGW; Maude's Dairy, KNX, KOIN; News, KJR, KSL, KEX; Words and Music, KGO.
10:00 p. m.—America's Town Meeting of the Air, KGO, KJR, KEX; Reporter News, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.
10:30 p. m.—Sports, KNO, KSL; Carl Kalahe's Orch., KPO, KOMO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGO; Sports, KNX; War Time Women, KOIN.
11:00 p. m.—Swing Your Partner, KPO, KGW; This Moving World, KEX, KJR; News, KGO, KNX; Dance

Orch., KOIN; Evening Reveries, KOMO.

Friday

5:00 p. m.—Lewishohn Stadium Concert, KSL; H. V. Kaitenborn, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Afternoon Dances, KNX.
5:30 p. m.—Bill Sabransky, KOMO; News, KGO; Harry W. Plannery, KNX, KOIN; America Sings, KGW; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Passing Parade, KPO.
6:00 p. m.—Waiter Time, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Listen America, KEX, KGO; Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KSL; Serenade, KJR; Accent on Rhythm, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.
6:30 p. m.—Plantation Party, KPO, KGW, KOMO; That Brewster Boy, KNX, KEX, KSL, KOIN; Dinah Shore, KGO, KEX.
7:00 p. m.—Meet Your Nasty, KGO, KEX; Lanny Ross, KSL, KNX, KOIN; People are Funny, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Aloha Land, KJR.
7:30 p. m.—Tent Show Tonight, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Lightening Jim, KGO, KEX, KJR.
8:00 p. m.—Fred Waring, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Earl Godwin, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KNX, KSL, KOIN.
8:15 p. m.—Dear John, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Melody Magic, KGW, KOMO; Duke Ellington's Orch., KGO, KEX, KJR; On Our Bandstand, KPO.
8:30 p. m.—Songs My Brother Taught Me, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Gang Busters, KEX, KJR; Playhouse, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Remar Rally, KGO.
9:00 p. m.—News, Richard Himber's Orch., KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, Ray Kinney's Orch., KNX, KOIN; News Here and Abroad, KGO; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Meet Your Nasty, KJR; Roth String Quartet, KSL.
9:30 p. m.—Teddy Powell's Orch., KGW, KOMO, KPO; Raffles, KNX, KOIN; News, KSL, KJR; Moonlight Sonata, KEX; Charlie Harper, KGO.
10:00 p. m.—Hollywood Legion Stadium Fights, KGO; Reporter News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; News, Lull Gluskin's Orch., KNX, Studio Party, KEX; Popular Potpourri, KJR; Five Star Final, KOIN; Masterworks of Music, KSL.
10:30 p. m.—Sports, Lou Brees's Orch., KNX, KSL; Organ Music, KGO; Betty Martin, KOMO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGO; Northwest Bible Institute, KJR; War Time Women, KOIN; Bolter Derby, KPO.
11:00 p. m.—Harry Owens' Hawaiian, KGW; This Moving World, KEX; KJR; Al Donahue's Orch., KOIN; News, KGO; Folk Music, KJR; News, KNX; Reveries, KOMO.

Reese Creek

Reese Creek, July 30—(Spl.)—Homer Martin was able to return home July 28. He can walk with the aid of a chair and after a rest period will be able to be out again.

Mr. and Mrs. Graves M. Rhodes, and sons Tommy and Buddie of

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

By GUYAS WILLIAMS



WHEN FRED PERLEY, WHO HAD TAKEN THE LAWN MOWER APART IN THE BACK YARD TO DO A REPAIR JOB, RETURNED FROM ANSWERING THE PHONE, HE WIFE PROUDLY ANNOUNCED THAT SHE HAD HELPED THE SALVAGE CAMPAIGN BY SELLING SOME SCRAP METAL THAT WAS LYING AROUND TO THE JUNK DEALER.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Four-base hit
2. Kind of rubber
3. Exotic
4. Unmish
5. On the highest point
6. Path of a point moving according to a law
7. Undeveloped flower
8. Metal
9. Indefinite amount
10. Anglo-Saxon
11. Take great delight
12. Phenomenon
13. Philippine
14. Chemical suffix
15. Proper
16. Vandal
17. Horseman
18. Like
19. Roast
20. Observe
21. Past
22. Representations
23. Tires
24. Female sand-piper
25. Puss
26. Skill
27. Annoy
28. Narrow f-belt
29. Had an injury
30. Effect
31. Prominent
32. Peel
33. Gentiana
34. Constellation
35. City in Switzerland
36. Compass point
37. Diluted
38. English race track
39. Short for a musical name
40. Merchandise
41. Bamboo-like
42. Attenuate
43. Musical study
44. Thing; law
45. Released on
46. Minute part
47. Close
48. Grit
49. Mimic
50. Soft drink
51. Covering for the foot and leg
52. Shrewish
53. Woman
54. Cheesecake
55. Husband of Jezebel
56. Small and weak
57. Cold
58. Genus of the maple tree
59. Unconstructed
60. Exhibits a play
61. Tail
62. Part of a church
63. Anglo-Saxon
64. Directed
65. Horse with a terrible gallop
66. Springs
67. Sea pineapple
68. Bold in speech
69. Pendulous
70. Permits
71. Observed
72. Obscure

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Aussie Transport Victim of Japs



Heeled over on a reef, her fires burned out, an Australian transport off Port Moresby, was the victim of Japanese bombs which rained on the harbor for two days.

Phoenix

Phoenix, July 30—(Spl.)—F. V. Barrett is attending a five-week session at University of Oregon at Eugene.

Mrs. Austin E. Caldwell (nee Phyllis Wier) was honored at a shower July 19th, given by Miss Lela June Cobleigh and Miss Jean Wier, at the Cobleigh home. Guests present were Lucille Lybrand, Paye Harris, Dolly Glover, Jean Wier, Peggy Richer, Verda Starina, Mrs. A. R. Richer, Mrs. W. D. Steadman, Mrs. Guy Cobleigh, and Lela June Cobleigh.

Sunday visitors at the Cobleigh home included Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cobleigh of Butte Falls; George Bryant, Keith Ehrk, Maxine Cobleigh, Jean Tjoelker, Ada East and Ida Jackson of Medford.

Mrs. Fred E. Hallgren left Wednesday for Seattle and Portland to visit friends.

Miss Margie Kettlewell of Oakland, Calif., is spending the week with Miss Patricia Purry of Phoenix.

Mrs. Earl Briscoe, Howard and Richard Briscoe, and Kay Dudley left Monday for Klamath Falls for several days. Kay Dudley will visit Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tannery of Weyerhaeuser Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Watt and Mrs. King left Sunday to spend several days at the mine in northern California.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Purry and Mr. and Mrs. Louise Colver spent Sunday at Lost Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Purry, Rob Purry, Leo and Fred left Sunday for Crescent City to spend several days.

Mrs. Doug Steadman was honored on her birthday with a picnic at Ashland Park. Those present were Mrs. Billy Newsome, Mrs. Clara Clifford Garvin, Mr. Jim Garvin, Mr. Doug Steadman, and the honoree.

Miss Marita Purry announced her engagement to Bill Kyker of Medford at an announcement party, Tuesday evening. The announcement was made with the use of place cards, and the wedding date was announced as July 30. Attending were Misses Mary Jean Barnes, Pat Purry, Vella Tosselle, Monica Wilcox, Irene Stedman, Margie Heckert, Margie Froman, Marilee Erwin, and Mesdames, Dick Wright, Jack White, Bob Walker, Bill Collins, Ernie Olson, Robert Purry, Raymond Purry and bride-elect, Miss Marita Purry.

Leaving for Portland Monday, were Jack Evans, Clifford Burke, Rager Roberts, Chuck Frost, and Ray Christ. They will take their physical examinations for entrance into the navy.

Miss Marita Purry was honored with a miscellaneous shower Monday night at the home of Miss Pat Purry. Attending were: Misses Doris Myers, Barbara Standiford, Twila Ferns, Mary Jean Barnes, Betty Hayse, Marilee Kettlewell, Irene Stedman and Mesdames Nikodym, Wright, Rob Purry, Raymond Purry, Kyker, Collins, White, Olson, Walker, Bride-elect, Marita Purry and hostesses, Pat Purry and Margie Heckert. Refreshments were served on the lawn.

Leo Jacobs and Fritz Harris left last week for Idaho where they will be employed.

Use Mail Tribune want ads.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



R.A.F. CREWS OF DOUGLAS BOSTON BOMBERS WEAR "TIN HATS" EXCEPT THE GUNNER... WHOSE METAL HELMET MIGHT BREAK HIS NECK! (BY BEING CAUGHT IN THE VIOLENT SLIP STREAM IN THE OPEN TURRET)

WHEN A TANKER LOADED WITH GASOLINE IS SUNK, FUEL ENOUGH TO POWER 5000 AUTOMOBILES FOR A YEAR IS LOST!

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH OF AUSTRIA HAD A MORTAL FEAR OF ELECTRIC LIGHTS... AND HAD HIS PALACE LIGHTED WITH CANDLES MADE FROM WHALE BRAINS!

1830-1916...

TOMORROW—INSIGNIFICANT SUN!

BRAIN CANDLES
Emperor Francis Joseph's candles were made from walfish, a highly perfumed substance ex-acted from the brains of whales. Even during the elaborate court functions the walfish candles were always used.
TIN HAT FLYERS
Some months ago it was deemed necessary to equip the crews of Douglas attack bombers flown by the R.A.F. with helmets—because one of the greatest dangers the men had to face was that of shrapnel falling from above into the cockpits of their planes

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—That's Out Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen



LIL ABNER—Tired Business Man



THE NEBBES—End of the Road



TWO YEAR JOB ENDS—Arthur Tofani finishes model of Independence Hall requiring two years, 38,000 wooden bricks.

31ST TRAFFIC DEATH
Portland, July 30—(P)—Portland recorded its 31st traffic fatality of the year last night with the death of William Hudson, 65, Milwaukie, injured by a bus July 9.

ARCHAEOLOGIST DIES
Jerusalem, July 30—(P)—Sir Flinders Petrie, British archaeologist noted for his work in Egypt,

died last night in the government hospital. He was 89 years old last June 3.

Keep 'em Rolling at Ashland Roller Rink

Plan A Party. Call 8081 Ashland "For Health's Sake, Roller Skate" Tue., Thur., Sat., Sun., Eves