

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Cox

Chapter 36 The Dying Walk

"IF THAT'S the way it was," Murdock said, "then Raeburn didn't know Delia was on the way to Hardacker's."

"Maybe Hardacker told him after he got there and maybe not," Bacon said. "The point is, all the time we had Raeburn at Headquarters, Hardacker was out on his own. Either Hardacker told him Miss Stewart was on the way, or else Raeburn just knocked off Hardacker, put him in the closet and was about to shove off when he heard her come. Now, suppose you just go over what you did again for me, Mrs. Murdock."

Joyce traced her movements the night before, recalling such details as she could: so did Delia. It took them perhaps five minutes and when they had finished Bacon looked none too pleased.

"Nothing new there," he said. He snorted softly and lowered his brows at Delia. "If you'd only come to me in the first place instead of that louse Fenner."

"That would have been just dandy, wouldn't it?" Murdock said.

After Bacon left they went in the living room and when Murdock and Fenner continued to talk, Joyce sat down and did some thinking of her own. She realized at once that there were some gaps in Bacon's theory about Raeburn; she also was vaguely disturbed by the knowledge that Ward Allen had been released at seven thirty the night before. Suddenly a long dormant question demanded attention.

"Kent," she said, wondering why she had not thought to ask before, "do you know when Hester married Losado?"

"I'm not sure about the year—" "July."

Joyce sat up. "I knew it. I knew there was something—" She looked at Delia. "Don't you remember?"

"Wait a minute," Murdock was squinting at her. "You knew what?"

Not Hester

"She wasn't divorced until August. She was never really married to Losado. I knew she hadn't given Perry Clarke a hundred thousand dollars just for old times' sake. She gave it to him because she had to, because if he told what he knew she'd never get her share of the estate. Even after she paid him she couldn't be sure, so she went up there and shot him and—"

"Hey," Murdock said. "Hey, take it easy. His voice was calm and she saw that he was smiling. 'You've sort of got it in for Hester, haven't you?'"

"But, Kent—"

"She didn't shoot him."

"She tried to put down her exasperation, to speak quietly. 'You said that before, darling.'"

"I know. And I'm saying it again. Clarke was shot twice and one of the bullets went right through him. They dug it out of the door frame three feet from the floor. Clarke was a little man; Hester's not tall either. The bullet had to go through his chest at a sharp downward angle to wind up three feet from the floor. Whoever shot him was considerably taller than he was. And that, my sweet, is why I say Hester didn't shoot him."

Joyce felt her cheeks get hot but she smiled. "All right," she said. "I'm squelched. But just the same—"

"How do you know she got divorced in August?" Fenner asked. "There was a copy of that divorce in the envelope and I noticed the date."

"Let's go calling," Fenner said. "I hear she's quite a number."

"You'll like her," Murdock said dryly.

"I know I will. But if she knows anything about what killed Nick Hardacker it won't make any difference."

"I thought we'd decided Raeburn killed him?"

"We have—until we find out different."

Joyce watched her husband. "Kent, we're all agreed that there were two other callers that night besides Delia."

"I guess we are," He answered without turning.

"The one she heard while she was in the bedroom must have killed him and left by the back stairs as Delia did. Then Ward came. He must have if he left with the gun. And yet—how did he get in? A murderer would not leave the door unlocked." She watched Kent turn; she paused, went on. "And Ward would not go around with a bunch of keys in his pocket expecting to break in. He must have expected to be admitted. So how did he get in?"

"Clarke let him in."

Joyce gaped at him. "Oh, now, really, Kent."

Kent's Theory

HE CAME back to the center of the room, his face grave. He repeated himself, measuring his words. "Clarke let him in."

"Figure it for me, too," Fenner said.

"If there were two others after Delia, the first one killed him and left the gun. Allen came along and knocked, possibly scaring the killer off, possibly not."

"And Clarke is dead on the floor," Fenner said.

"On the floor, but not dead. He bled freely," Murdock said. "He may have lost consciousness for a while, but it must have come back to him, for a few seconds at least. His vest and shirt were blood soaked but there were also spots along the front of his trousers! That much," he said.

"Oh-oh," Fenner said.

"Joyce was still waiting. 'But I don't see—'"

"He stood up," Fenner said. "If he had stayed where he'd fallen," Murdock said, "you'd have no blood on the thigh and knee. He had to stand up to get blood to run down there—gravity my sweet—and I think he not only stood up, but walked. When I saw him his feet were pointed towards the door and quite close, as though he had gone over to it and finally fallen backward."

"And that follows. He got up, that much I know; the rest is guesswork but it's good enough for me."

He looked down at Joyce. "You've been shot twice, the lights go out for you and then, for a little while, they come back. You know you're dying and you try to get up. You make it to your feet. Then what would you do?"

Joyce shook her head. "I don't know."

"One of two things: you'd want help—a doctor—or you'd want to make sure the man who shot you paid for it. Either way you've got two choices. The first is the telephone, the second is the door—you might open it and call for help."

"Clarke did not go to the telephone, although it was right there in the room. Why, when it was the easy, logical thing to do? Because I think he heard Ward Allen knocking. Here was help. He staggered over and opened it before he fell back and died."

"Thanks, Kent," she said.

"For what? That's only my theory."

But she could only smile at him.

"Let's go tell Hester," Fenner rubbed his palms and grinned. "Huh?"

"I'm going," Murdock said resignedly.

She got his hat and coat, and after they had gone, Delia came up to her. "I wish we'd told him in the first place," she said.

"So do I, Joyce said."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (MBS) 1230, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KGA (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KJW (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—Don Vining, KPO; Vox Pop, KSL, KOIN, KNX; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KOW; Translunets, KOMO.

5:30—News, KGO; Voice of Firestone, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Harry W. Planner, KNX, KOIN; Here Comes the Band, KEX; Folk Music From Many Lands, KJR; Melodies Moderne, KSL.

6:00—Victory Theatre, KNX, KOIN, KSL; Goldman Band Concert, KEX, KJR; Minstrel Melodies, KPO, KOMO; Junior Victory Army, KGO; Oregon on Guard, KOW.

6:30—Martin's Orch., KNX, KOIN, KSL; Paul Walli, KGO; Dr. L. Q. KPO, KOW, KOMO; Greater Washington Hour, KJR.

7:00—Contented Hour, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Your Blind Date, KGO, KJR, KEX; Norman Corwin, KNX, KOIN, KSL.

7:30—Vaughn Monroe's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Lands of the Free, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Lightin' Jim, KGO, KEX.

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

8:15—Olmsted's Story Dramas, KPO; Lum & Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR; Time Out For Melody, KNX; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.

8:30—Cavalade of America, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Gay Nineties Revue, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Major Hoople, KEX, KGO.

9:00—Telephone Hour, KPO, KOW, KOMO, KNX, KGO; I Was There, KNX, KOIN; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Treasury Star Parade, KJR.

9:30—Hollywood Showcase, KNX, KOIN; Hawthorne House, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Glen Gray's Orch., KGO; News, KSL, KJR, KEX.

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

10:30—Les Brown's Orch., KNX, KSL; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KOW; The World Today, KOIN; Ice Pollies, KNX.

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

Tuesday

5:00—Ray Harrington's orch. KPO, KOW; Are You a Missing Heir?, KSY; Flying Patrol, KEX, KJR, KGO; Afternoon Dances, KNX; Musical Portraits, KOMO.

5:30—Hobby Lobby, KOIN, KSL; Clete Robert Reports, KEX, KGO; Horace Heidt, KJO, KOMO, KOW; KJR.

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS

TRED PERLEY WAS NOT SO POPULAR WITH THE NEIGHBORS HE HAD PERSUADED TO RIDE INTO TOWN WITH HIM, BECAUSE, BY THE TIME HE DISCOVERED THAT THE CAR HAD BEEN IDLE SO LONG WHILE HE WAS SAVING RUBBER THAT THE BATTERY WAS DEAD, EVERYONE HAD MISSED THE MORNING TRAIN

(Continued on Page 10, Section 2)

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

GREEN GUARDS BELIEVE IN DOING 'BIG' THINGS

"It's easy to get to be a Green Guard," Dale Lander, 15-year-old Roseburg youth tells Oregon boys and girls. "Just drop a postal card to address shown on card I am holding and sign your name. The Green Guard program is to help our nation win the war. You and girls of Oregon to join to help our nation win the war. You know, we watch and report fires in our forests." Harris Ellsworth, Roseburg publisher and Keep Oregon Green chairman for Douglas county looks on approvingly to Green Guard Lander's novel way of enlisting Green Guards, as does Harry Pinner, county civilian defense coordinator.

acres of wheat in eastern Oregon are ripening, they offer a great potential danger zone for fire. Now, more than ever, we must ask that every citizen become a fire warden. Fitting of cigarettes from cars into dry roadside grass could cause a devastating fire in wheatlands, and wheat today is needed for a United Nation victory.

State highway officials, and many county officials, are to be commended for the program of cutting tall grass along roadways," Johnson continued. "The boys and girls of Oregon have responded in splendid style by joining in the Green Guard, fire prevention campaign, and it is not too much for us to ask every adult to likewise do everything within his power to see that he does not cause a fire."

Timber and Wheat Dangered by Fire Oregonians Warned

Salem—(Spl.)—Two of Oregon's great resources, her timberland and her wheat fields, both of them vitally important to winning the war, today stand in danger of destruction by fire, unless every citizen of Oregon joins wholeheartedly in the campaign to prevent forest fires and fires along roadways, says Dean Johnson, state chairman of the Keep Oregon Green campaign.

"We have been stressing fire prevention in our forests all spring, with outstanding results so far," Chairman Johnson pointed out, "but now that our great

Timber and Wheat Dangered by Fire Oregonians Warned

Salem—(Spl.)—Two of Oregon's great resources, her timberland and her wheat fields, both of them vitally important to winning the war, today stand in danger of destruction by fire, unless every citizen of Oregon joins wholeheartedly in the campaign to prevent forest fires and fires along roadways, says Dean Johnson, state chairman of the Keep Oregon Green campaign.

"We have been stressing fire prevention in our forests all spring, with outstanding results so far," Chairman Johnson pointed out, "but now that our great

Timber and Wheat Dangered by Fire Oregonians Warned

Salem—(Spl.)—Two of Oregon's great resources, her timberland and her wheat fields, both of them vitally important to winning the war, today stand in danger of destruction by fire, unless every citizen of Oregon joins wholeheartedly in the campaign to prevent forest fires and fires along roadways, says Dean Johnson, state chairman of the Keep Oregon Green campaign.

"We have been stressing fire prevention in our forests all spring, with outstanding results so far," Chairman Johnson pointed out, "but now that our great

Timber and Wheat Dangered by Fire Oregonians Warned

Salem—(Spl.)—Two of Oregon's great resources, her timberland and her wheat fields, both of them vitally important to winning the war, today stand in danger of destruction by fire, unless every citizen of Oregon joins wholeheartedly in the campaign to prevent forest fires and fires along roadways, says Dean Johnson, state chairman of the Keep Oregon Green campaign.

"We have been stressing fire prevention in our forests all spring, with outstanding results so far," Chairman Johnson pointed out, "but now that our great

Timber and Wheat Dangered by Fire Oregonians Warned

Ford Observes Birthday



"I guess I'm getting on in years," Henry Ford remarked on his 79th anniversary in Detroit. He visited the little shop in which he built his first auto, sat in the car and gazed at the crude equipment he used half a century ago.

Harry W. Flannery, KNX.

6:00—Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou, KNX, KSL, KOIN; Battle of the Sexes, KPO, KOW, KOMO; Green Hornet, KEX; Voice of Victory, KGO.

6:30—John Neill, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Homestead O'Kane, KJR; Cheers from the Camps, KNX, KOIN; News, KEX.

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

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

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

8:15—Glenn Miller's Orch., KNX, KSL, KOIN; Lum & Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; Olmsted's Story Dramas, KGO, KOMO; Music Salon, KPO.

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

9:00—Hobby Lobby, KNX, KSL; News Here and Abroad, KGO; Alvin Ray's Orch., KOIN; Adventures of the Thin Man, KPO, KOMO, KOW; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Concert Hall, KJR.

The Grange

Gold Hill Home Economics Club met July 28 at the home of Marie Christensen with Lillian Autenreith and Florence Lance as co-hostesses. Mrs. Bertram from California was a welcome visitor.

A first aid class will start in Grange Hall about August 15. Exact date will be announced. Classes will be held each Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Esther Gilchrist will be instructor. Any of the community wishing to learn first aid may enroll.

Lyndal Cameron and Beulah Nathan were remembered by their Flora friends, and Maude Martin won a prize. Delicious refreshments of sandwiches, vegetable salad and iced tea were served by the hostesses.

Next meeting will be August 11 at Grange Hall with Pearl Gray, Gertrude Rosecrans and Dorothy McGuire as co-hostesses.

Our annual picnic was held July 30 on the Rogue River at the George Potter place. Forty members were there. Supper was served at 7 o'clock, and a bountiful supper it was. The losing side in the attendance contest furnished plenty of ice cream. All enjoyed a pleasant evening.

WALLOPER

No other heavyweight fighter has touched the Manassa Mauler's one-round K. O. record. Jack (Tiger) Fox and Buddy Baer are runners up with 23 one-stanza blackouts each.

OLD FOUNDRY

Sheffield's oldest steel mill, which for 62 years have been used as a museum of Sheffield tools, as again in operation, manned by young boys and old steel-making veterans. It is now turning out several million dollars' worth of tool steel for the British war effort annually.

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Bombs and Baseball

Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

THREE HOURS LATER, MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING FOR BROOKLYN.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

COMMITTEE FOR TIRE CONSERVING BUSY IN COUNTY

During the past month the Jackson County War Transportation committee consisting of A. S. V. Carpenter, administrator; Lloyd Rupp and L. B. Mayfield has met with representatives of local groups and organizations to determine ways and means whereby automobile tires might be conserved. Mr. Carpenter received his appointment from Joseph Eastman, national director of the office of defense transportation.

The national office has urged that every community in the United States be organized to study and make recommendations concerning local existing transportation facilities and problems.

Local problems considered are business, working and school hours, making more efficient use

of private automobiles through group riding and more efficient movement of passenger carrying vehicles.

Meetings have been held with leaders of labor, the local transportation company, construction companies, local industry and Camp White army officers.

The problem and need for conserving rubber is definitely recognized by those attending the meetings. It was unanimously agreed to do everything possible to conserve rubber.

Union officials are completing plans to bring the problem before their members. Officers at Camp White are working on plans that will curtail use of private cars to and from the camp.

Transportation officials are arranging routes to care for the greatest number of local people desiring such transportation.

Contractors and industry are endeavoring to eliminate all unnecessary use of cars on the various jobs under their supervision. Where possible, working hours have been so planned to permit maximum use of transportation facilities.

The local war transportation committee urges that every own

er of an automobile observe the following:

1. Discourage needless driving.
2. Keep tires inflated to recommended pressure.
3. Use commercial transportation facilities whenever possible.
4. Travel in groups or double up in use of cars when necessary to travel.
5. Drive carefully and within the recommended speed limit at all times.

Jackson Co. Students Register for U. of O.

University of Oregon, Eugene, August 3.—(Spl.)—Although applications for admittance to the University of Oregon for next school year are running slightly behind last year, more than 500 high school and advanced students have already been accepted by the university for the opening of fall term on September 21, according to Dr. Earl M. Pallett, university registrar.

Those on the list from Jackson county include:

Robert Arthur Brewer and Jeanne Winifred Smith, Medford; John Hallett Kent, Butte Falls; and Russell Hawk and Richard Henry Finnell, Ashland.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



WALLOPER

No other heavyweight fighter has touched the Manassa Mauler's one-round K. O. record. Jack (Tiger) Fox and Buddy Baer are runners up with 23 one-stanza blackouts each.

OLD FOUNDRY

Sheffield's oldest steel mill, which for 62 years have been used as a museum of Sheffield tools, as again in operation, manned by young boys and old steel-making veterans. It is now turning out several million dollars' worth of tool steel for the British war effort annually.

HAP HOPPER, Washington Correspondent—Bombs and Baseball

Edited by Drew Pearson and Bob Allen

THREE HOURS LATER, MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING FOR BROOKLYN.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.

LOOKS AS IF HE'S GOING INTO THE BUILDING.