

MRS. MURDOCK TAKES A CASE

by George Harmon Coxe

Chapter 38 Call From Joyce

JACK FENNER swung his little sedan into the driveway, drove up under the porte-cochere, and stopped there.

"We might as well use the society entrance," he said.

Murdoch eyed him glumly. "I don't like this much."

"You've got the wrong attitude," Fenner said, opening the door. "You were married to her once and now—"

"That's got nothing to do with it," Murdoch said. "I just don't like the idea of trying to bully her when I don't think she knows anything about the case anyway."

"Look," Fenner became pointedly patient. "This dame has got a definite hook-up with Raeburn, right? And your wife can put Raeburn in the chair practically singlehanded. If Raeburn finds that out—and he wouldn't have to be very smart if he can read the papers and put two and two together—he's going to hope something happens to her, right?"

"Oh, quiet!" Murdoch said. "Get out. We'll talk to her."

The butler looked doubtful when he opened the door.

"Mr. Losado is engaged at the moment."

"We'll wait," Fenner said and pushed in.

Murdoch followed. "Just say that Mr. Murdoch would like to see her. Tell her I won't keep her long."

He had been moving along the short corridor as he spoke and was now nearly to the main hall. The butler shrugged with his eyebrows and withdrew, and presently Hester appeared.

"Why, Kent how nice—"

She stopped abruptly, seeing Fenner, and the smile faded. She looked questioningly from one to the other, and Murdoch made the introduction.

"I've heard a lot about you," Fenner said. "And all of it's true."

Hester looked him up and down, with some hauteur at first and then, seeing his grin, with more interest.

"Would that be a compliment?" she asked.

"It would."

A smile touched her glance and she turned to Murdoch. "John Nason's here. Would you rather wait or—"

"Nason?" Murdoch hesitated, finding the name an injection which stimulated many dormant thoughts. "No, he might be interested in this too."

John Nason rose when they entered the drawing room, blond, square-faced and powerful-looking. Beneath the bushy brows his gray eyes examined the trio in one swift glance and then became expressionless.

Hester—Angry

SHE sat down and the others followed.

"The police haven't been here, have they?" Murdoch asked.

"They telephoned," Hester said. "I told them they could come after lunch."

"Do you know why they called?"

"About Perry Clarke, I presume."

Murdoch glanced at Fenner, knowing that if he did not continue, the detective would.

"Have you seen Raeburn?"

"Why—no."

"Have you been in touch with him at all?"

Hester's glance slid over to Nason and came back. "I'm afraid I don't understand," she said. "I've just told you—"

"A man by the name of Hardacker was murdered last night," Murdoch said. "Apparently by the same person who killed Perry Clarke. Hardacker was a private detective, and he was working for Raeburn. The way it looks now, Raeburn is the one who killed him—and Clarke."

Hester's mantle of graciousness had slipped away.

"And how," she asked, her glance resentful, "does that concern me?"

"You know Raeburn," Murdoch said.

"And we thought you might have some line on him," Fenner added.

Hester looked him up and down.

"Is that why you came?" she snapped. "Because you think I'm—I'm harboring a murderer?"

Fenner was unimpressed. "It's like this," he said, and began to tell her what had happened.

Watching the lawyer as Fenner continued, he concentrated, remembering things about Nason that had come to light over the past two years, reviewing the business activities that had been newsworthy enough to warrant a paragraph or two in the Courier-Herald. Suddenly he was aware that not only was there a possible connection between Nason's field of business and Hester's story, but also a very timely and pertinent connection.

Fenner had finished and Hester's mouth had tightened. "I'm sorry," she said, "but I don't care to discuss it. I don't know anything about Raeburn and I resent your inference that I do."

She gave Murdoch a hard bright look. "If that's the reason you came, I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to excuse me."

Murdoch flushed. He watched Hester rise to put an end to the discussion. He did not move.

Murdoch glanced at Fenner. He was completely at ease. He was leaning back in his chair, legs crossed, a grin on his lips and a challenge in his eyes. Even when Hester glared at him nothing changed.

"She doesn't have to listen," Murdoch's flush remained and so did his stubbornness. "But we may find someone else who'd like to know that she had never been married to Miguel Losado."

Nason Speaks

Hester's face blanched. Her eyes blazed and for a moment her acquired veneer cracked.

"Why you—!" she said. "You—!"

She choked off and Murdoch went on implacably.

"You told me you married Losado in July. Isn't that right?"

Hester was either too angry or confused to answer and he did not wait.

"Just a minute, please," John Nason got to his feet and looked at Murdoch and then at Fenner.

His face was impassive, his voice smooth. He waited until he was sure of everyone's attention. "The fact that Mrs. Losado was married or divorced on a certain date has nothing to do with the payment of her inheritance."

"Hasn't it?" Murdoch said.

Pausing, as though for emphasis, Nason continued: "Had Miguel Losado died intestate, and had Mrs. Losado not been legally married, then your contention would apply. But he did not. He left a will. He mentioned in that will the name of Hester Losado. And so long as he did that, Mr. Murdoch, her legal marital status is beside the point. His intent was clear and that is the crux of the matter."

Murdoch looked at him and said nothing. He watched Nason pass a hand over his short blond hair, noting the pointed, close-set ears. He looked at Fenner and that worthy tilted his brows and let them fall.

Somewhere in the house a telephone rang. Still no one spoke although Hester's look was eloquent and contemplative. The butler appeared in the doorway.

"Yes, Edward," Hester said.

"The telephone, madam. For Mr. Murdoch."

"Thanks," Murdoch rose. "Excuse me, please."

The telephone was at the rear of the hall and when he answered it Joyce's voice came back to him.

"Kent. Will you do something for me?"

"I don't know. What?"

"Will you and Jack come over to Ward Allen's—and do you think you could bring Hester?"

"What for? What're you—?"

"Ward's going away. Kent. Della's gone over to talk to him and I've just phoned him and asked him to wait."

"He's crazy," Murdoch said.

"Of course he is. And we have to stop him. I think we can if we all get together and tell the truth."

To be continued

On the Radio Chains

STATIONS:
Chain affiliation and where they are on the dial:
KALE (MBS) 1330, Portland.
KEX (NBC-Blue) 1190, Portland.
KJL (NBC-Blue & MBS) 1510, Spokane.
KGO (NBC-Blue) 810, San Francisco.
KJW (NBC-Red) 620, Portland.
KJR (NBC-Blue) 1000, Seattle.
KNA (CBS) 1070, Los Angeles.
KOA (NBC-Red) 850, Denver.
KOIN (CBS) 970, Portland.
KOMO (NBC-Red) 930, Seattle.
KPO (NBC-Red) 680, San Francisco.
KSL (CBS) 1160, Salt Lake City.

Time shown is PST

Wednesday
5:00—H. V. Kaitenborn, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Nelson Eddy, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR; Stars of Today, KGW; Waltz Rhythm, Passing Parade, KPO.

5:30—It Happened in the Service, KOMO, KGO; Doctor Christian, KSL; News, KGO; Harry W. Plannery, KXN, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Passing Parade, KPO.

6:00—Shirley Temple, KXN, KOIN; Those We Love, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Chamber Music Society, KGO, KEX; Popular Music, KJR; Sports, KSL.

6:30—Mr. District Attorney, KPO, KOMO, KGW; Goldman Band Concert, KGO, KJR; Suspense, KXN, KOIN, KSL; News, KEX.

7:00—Morgan Beatty, KGO, KEX, KJR; Great Moments in Music, KOIN, KSL, KXN; Kay Kyser's Musical Quiz, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

7:30—Lightning Jim, KGO, KJR, KEX; 22nd Letter, KXN, KOIN; Army Recruiting, KSL.

8:00—Earl Godwin, KGO, KEX, KJR; Amos 'n' Andy, KXN, KOIN, KSL; Point Sublime, KPO, KGW, KOMO.

8:15—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KSL, KOIN; Lum & Abner, KGO, KEX, KJR.

8:30—Dr. Christian, KXN, KOIN; Paul Martin's Orch., KPO, KGW; Manhattan at Midnight, KGO, KJR, KEX.

9:00—Ed Stocker's Orch., KOW; News Here and Abroad, KGO; William Winter, KXN; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Studio Party, KJR; Headlight Hour, KOMO; Light and Mellow, KPO.

9:30—Lyrics and Lullabies, KGO; Northwest Neighbors, KOIN; News, KEX; Your Mayor Speaks, KGW; Wilbur Hatch's Orch., KXN; Who's Who on the Home Front, KOMO; On Our Bandstand, KPO.

10:00—News, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Ray Noble's Orch., KGO, KEX; News, KXN, KOIN; Chamber Music Society, KJR; Masterworks of Music, KSL.

10:30—Freddie Martin's Orch., KGO, KJR; Sports, KXN, KSL; Harry Owens' Hawaiians, KPO, KOMO; Broadway Bandwagon, KEX; Moonlight Sonata, KGW; The World Today, KOIN.

11:00—Organ, KPO; Lud Gluskin's Orch., KOIN, KSL; This Moving World, KEX; News, KGO, KXN; Dance Orch., KGW; Folk Music, KJR; News, KXN; Evening Reveries, KOMO.

Thursday
5:00—Thirty Minutes to Play, KSL, KOIN; Maurice's Orch., KPO, KGW; Flying Patrol, KEX, KGO, KJR.

"Torpedoed, Sunk" at Midway



Back from the battle of Midway, Seaman R. J. Shaefer (left), of St. Clair, Pa., and W. F. Lamber, cook, 2nd class, told in San Francisco how the U. S. destroyer Hammann was torpedoed and sunk when it went to the air of the U. S. aircraft carrier Yorktown in that battle. Shaefer even went to the bother of having the date "torpedoed and sunk, June 6," tattooed on his arm.

Thirty Seconds To Go, KXN; Dance Orch., KOMO.

5:30—Masters of Music, KOMO; Death Valley Days, KSL; Clete Roberts Reports, KGO, KEX; Harry W. Plannery, KXN, KOIN; Folk Music from Many Lands, KJR; Afternoon Dances, KXN; The Parade, KPO.

6:00—Major Bowes, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Kraft Music Hall, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Sur Les Boulevards, KEX, KJR; Voice of Victory, KGO.

6:30—Stage Door Canteen, KXN, KSL, KOIN; Fifteen Minutes from Broadway, KGO; News, KEX; Armchair Cruises, KJR.

7:00—How'm I Doin', KPO, KOMO, KGW; Rudy Vallee Show, KGO, KEX, KJR; The First Line, KXN, KOIN, KSL.

7:30—Red Ryder, KGO, KJR, KEX; March of Time, KPO, KGW, KOMO; Time Out for Melody, KXN; Leon F. Drews, KOIN.

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

8:15—Glenn Miller's Orch., KXN, KOIN, KSL; Lum & Abner, KGO, KJR, KEX; Moyle Sisters, KGW.

8:30—Death Valley Days, KXN, KOIN; Frank Morgan, KPO, KOMO, KGW; This Nation at War, KGO; News, KSL; Flowers for the Living, KEX.

9:00—Music in the Moonlight, KGW; News Here and Abroad, KGO; United We Sing, KXN; Down Memory Lane, KEX; Concert Hall, KJR; Company at Ease, KOIN; Romance

Tokyo Says These Japs in Aleuts



Caption accompanying this photograph, received in New York from neutral Portugal, describes it as one sent by radio from Tokyo to Berlin showing Jap troops with their rising sun flag after landing in the Aleutian island.

STRANGE AS IT SEEMS

by JOHN HIX



BOB FITZSIMMONS, 160 LBS., KAYOED ED DUNKHORST, 300 LBS., IN 2 ROUNDS! April 3, 1900...

A 140-LB. WEIGHT DIFFERENCE!

AMERICA'S GERMAN GENERAL!
BARON VON STEUBEN, WHO AIDED THE COLONIES DURING THE REVOLUTION, TRAINED U.S. TROOPS BY PRUSSIAN METHODS!
HE WROTE THE FIRST HANDBOOK FOR THE TRAINING OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS...

TOMORROW—MURALS ON BARN!

PRUSSIAN DRILL
Probably no foreign military figure was more important to revolutionary America than Baron Frederick Von Steuben, who in Prussia was already a grand-marshal. Steuben found the continental troops raw and undisciplined, and he proceeded to apply Prussian drill tactics. Thus to him is owed the greatest part of the discipline of American soldiers during the Revolutionary war. He also wrote a handbook for training troops which was important long after he had ceased any connection with the army. Steuben did not return to Germany, but settled in New York and was granted a pension by the grateful U. S. Congress.

ENVY



Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. One who takes 40. Kingly initiative
2. Entice
3. Made uniform
4. Exits
5. Large receptacle
6. Not many
7. Symbol for silver
8. Color
9. More sensitive
10. Metric land measure
11. Exclamation
12. Familiar with by practice of experience
13. Pounce
14. Unseen
15. Conjunction
16. Matched
17. Broad smile

DOWN
18. Town in Ohio
19. Masculine nickname
20. Dry
21. Island off Asia
22. Miao
23. Earth comb form
24. Ancient Troy
25. Diminished toward a point
26. Side barrel pieces
27. You and I
28. Signal to speak
29. Italian opera
30. Equality
31. Unreliability of proper
32. H. P. Stowe character
33. Negative
34. Withdraw
35. Rumored
36. Male bees

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle
DOWN
1. Den
2. Other

2. Indian mutiny
3. Call
4. Goddess of discord
5. Cleanse thoroughly
6. Postpone
7. Unfilling
8. Cry of the cat
9. Article
10. Device for transmitting force
11. Margin
12. Back
13. Consigns to an inferior place
14. Deduce
15. Pronoun
16. Unit of work
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