

Scotland Yard Detective Cooks When Not Investigating Crime

By ROBERT MUSEL
United Press Correspondent
London — (U.P.) — Ever since Sherlock Holmes sawed away at his violin in the meditative throes of deduction, a good detective always seems to have some sort of hobby.

So it is fitting that the detective hero of this true-life story should be found in the kitchen in a clean white apron, patting down the last spoonful of icing on a cake.

Detective Superintendent Herbert Hannam of Scotland Yard — "The Count" to his colleagues and "Erb the Gent" to the underworld — bakes pastry for a hobby. He is no flatfoot at the stove. He holds a diploma as a pastry cook, earned 40 years ago before he decided to make law enforcement his career.

Hannam stands now at the crossroads of that career. On Dec. 19, he arrested Dr. John Bodkin Adams, a prominent physician in the seaside resort of Eastbourne, on a charge of murder. He specifically accused the 57-year-old bachelor of killing Mrs. Edith Alice Morell, a widow who left \$215,000 when she died in 1950 at the age of 81. She was cremated and her ashes scattered.

One such murder would have been furor enough. But Hannam has investigated the deaths of more than 20 other patients of Dr. Adams, most of them widows, most of them old and wealthy.

Full Publicity
Hannam went to Eastbourne last August to look into the "case of the wealthy widows." From the start, he worked in a blaze of rare publicity. Scotland Yard prefers to work quietly but it deferred to Hannam's theory that publicity would bring information from all sides — and might crack the murderer.

The 59,000 residents in the richest town in Britain found they had ringside seats at a drama that made the cinema seem pale. For everyone knew the man Hannam was stalking.

It was a risk, for publicity in Britain can be a boomerang. All ready there is talk that "trial by newspaper" may figure in the defense headed by Sir Hartley Shawcross, former attorney general and one of the most brilliant and expensive legal minds at the British bar.

Adams will have a preliminary hearing Jan. 14. Under British law, the prosecution must produce enough evidence then to satisfy a judge that it has made out a case for trial on murder charges.

Hannam does not appear con-

cerned. In this type of investigation he has few superiors. An instructor in criminal law at the training school for detectives, he has a talent for the most complicated kind of research.

In 1947 and 1948, he toured the Riviera and the United States to help break up a currency racket involving \$280 million. Later he was assigned to general security cases for the government.

Minute Evidence
During the coronation year of 1953, two girls—Barbara Songhurst and her friend, Christine Reed — were hacked to death, raped and their bodies thrown with their bicycles into the Thames river. It became known as the "towpath murders."

Hannam took 1,650 written statements from everyone he could find who had been near

that stretch of river on May 31, 1953. One of the last was given a schoolmaster who recalled seeing a man practicing throwing an axe at a tree trunk.

His description led to the arrest of Alfred Charles White-way, a 22-year-old laborer. A three-mile stretch of the Thames was drained. White-way's shoes were found. One tiny spot was found to be bloodstained. White-way was hanged.

Two years later Hannam sent another man to the gallows on the basis of the tread of his bicycle tire.

Hannam has spent four months completing his dossier on Dr. Adams. When the case is finished, Hannam's associates know what he will do. He will curl up with a good historical novel.

Next to making pastry, it is his favorite recreation.

Police Check Scores Of Reports for Mad Bomber of New York

New York — (U.P.) — Police checked scores of letters reporting "suspicious persons" today on the chance that one might lead to the "mad bomber" whose homemade explosives have set off a barrage of false bomb alarms across the nation.

While crank calls diminished here with only 12 Tuesday compared with a high point of 40 last Friday, they continued to spread nationally.

Fake threats Tuesday forced the evacuation of hundreds of movie patrons from theaters in Kansas City and Park Forest, Ill., a Chicago suburb. Both threats proved unfounded.

Philadelphia Bomb
At Philadelphia, a homemade pipe "bomb," containing a mixture of dough, cork and baking soda, was found in a restaurant in the city's Mayfair section. Employees of the restaurant, who found the device, placed it in a pail of water until police arrived.

In tracking down Tuesday's hoaxes here, police found no bombs, either real or simulated. However, detonation of a "cherry bomb" firecracker and an Army practice grenade touched off more than a score of telephone calls from persons who feared the "mad bomber" had struck again.

In all, more than 150 fake threats have been made since Christmas Eve when the mad bomber left a lethal calling card at the New York Public Library. That weapon and a subsequent

one last Thursday were found before they exploded.

Police have ascribed 32 homemade bombs to the deranged "bomber" since 1940. All but 10 have exploded, but there have been no fatalities. Several persons have been injured.

10,600 Die in Fires During Past Year

Boston, Mass. — (U.P.) — An estimated 10,600 persons were killed by fire in the United States during 1956 — 875 fewer than in 1955.

The decrease in deaths was the largest for any year since World War II, the National Fire Protection association reported today. General Manager Percy Bugbee attributed the reduction to a "substantial growth in the general public's awareness and of adherence to the simple rules of personal fire safety."

Total dollar value of property destroyed by fire in 1956 was a record \$1,250,000,000. The 1955 total and previous high was \$1,140,768,000.

Of the total loss in 1956, \$1,505,000,000 represented loss to building and contents. The other \$200 million was loss in aircraft, motor vehicles, forest and other non-building fires.

Biggest fire of the year was the Malibu, Calif., conflagration. The NFPA said the Malibu loss is expected to exceed the \$15 million Brooklyn, N.Y., pier fire and explosion of Dec. 3.

Baker Baby Turns Out To Be Two Yesterday

Baker — (U.P.) — Baker's first baby of 1957 turned out to be two.

A 6 pound, 7 ounce boy was born yesterday to Mr. and Mrs. Joe DeRoest of Baker at 12:45 a.m. at St. Elizabeth hospital. Fifteen minutes later a 5 pound, 9 ounce twin girl arrived.



CATHEDRAL DESTROYED — Lone fireman directs stream of water on stained glass windows of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, Conn., as flames leap from roof of the structure. The 58-year-old cathedral was the second Catholic church destroyed in the city in two days.

Land Management Bureau Cites Major Projects During '56

Portland — Progress toward Heath praised the O&C counties for their efforts in supporting the O&C program of the Bureau. By law these 18 counties receive 75 per cent of the revenue from timber sales on O&C lands and in many instances they have urged further use of their revenues to speed access roads and reforestation projects. A payment of \$11,900,000 was made in August, 1956, as the O&C counties' share of 1955 forest receipts.

Increase Noted
Heath pointed out that the allowable timber cut on Oregon and California reforested lands had been increased 12.3 per cent in the course of the year. The increases, made possible by completion of new inventories, were from 588,200,000 board feet to 614,100,000 board feet in February and to 860,700,000 board feet in October. The BLM studies disclosed greater volumes of merchantable timber and greater growth than had earlier, more conservative surveys. Inventories of O&C timber are continuing.

The state supervisor also cited the lifting of marketing restrictions on salvage timber as a significant step in BLM's management of the O&C lands. The order lifting the restriction was issued in July by BLM Director Edward Woolley after the Bureau had held a public hearing in Portland.

Portland Girl Says She Was Assaulted

Portland — (U.P.) — A 13-year-old girl told police a trio of teenage boys forced her into a car at knife point last night and that she was taken to a desolate area and criminally assaulted.

The girl said she was returning home from the St. Johns theater when she was stopped. She said one youth held a knife against her and forced her into a car. She was driven to a desolate area where one of the youths assaulted her, police said.

It was the fourth incident of juvenile violence here since Saturday.

TRIGGER RESOLUTION
Detroit — (U.P.) — James Messico, 20, has resolved never again to pull both triggers of a double-barreled shotgun at the same time — either on New Year's Eve or any other time. Messico did it and ripped both barrels to shreds. He escaped injury.

Batista Calls for End to Violence

Havana — (U.P.) — President Fulgencia Batista has called for an end to the "menacing quarrels and violence" among various political elements that plagued Cuba in the closing months of 1956.

At least 66 persons died in the eruption of political tempers during December alone, 27 of them between Christmas and New Years.

Batista made his appeal for a "ballots not bullets" solution in a New Years message to the nation. He said: "We proclaim once more than the best arms for the exercise of right and peace are ballots."

The holiday wave of terrorism was climaxed by a bombing New Years Eve in the famed Tropicana Cabaret. Two 18-year-old women were seriously injured in the explosion, one losing an arm.

Police reported finding the bodies of two men shot to death under still unknown circumstances in the town of Manicagua in the province of Las Villas.

Three Fugitives Caught in Gervais

Salem — (U.P.) — Three fugitives who broke out of the Harney county jail at Burns yesterday morning after overpowering a jailer, were apprehended at Gervais yesterday afternoon.

State police said the three still were in the jailer's car in which they had fled the eastern Oregon city when they were spotted on Highway 99E about 10 miles north of Salem.

Patrolman Henry Hepler said he was cruising the highway when he spotted the stolen car and set out in pursuit of the trio.

State police identified the escapees as Richard Perkins, 22, held for Oregon state prison as a parole violator; Leonard Queener, 20, held on a contributing to the delinquency of a minor charge, and Lester Elledge, 24, held on a burglary charge.

Hepler said the fugitives turned off the highway onto a gravel road and then junctioned onto the Mount Angel-Gervais highway.

After reaching Gervais, they attempted to shake the pursuing officer, but were unsuccessful. Hepler said that they suddenly stopped at a corner and offered no resistance to arrest.

The Harney county jailer, 60-year-old Ernest Musick, said he had entered the prisoners' cell to removed their breakfast plates when they jumped him and took his keys. They locked him in the cell and drove off in his car.

Washington Climbers Reach Mt. Hood Peak

Timberline Lodge — (U.P.) — A quartet of Washington mountain climbers today held the honor of being the first persons to stand on the peak of Mount Hood in 1957.

The annual race up the snow covered slopes of the lofty peak to be the first of the year attracted four climbing parties this year.

The first group to conquer the mountain consisted of Bill Unsoeld and Stan Bishoprick of Vancouver, Wash., and John Utzinger and Ed O'Neal, of Tacoma. The group left Timberline Sunday afternoon and camped overnight, reaching the summit yesterday morning.

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