

Murder at Bridge

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ANNE AUSTIN
author of
"THE BLACK PIGEON"
"THE AVENGING PARROT"
"MURDER BACKSTAIRS"

BEGIN HERE TODAY

Janita Selim is shot through the heart as she powders her face at her dressing table, the body being found by Karen Marshall when Karen comes to tell Nita of the bridge game.

Bonnie Dundee, special investigator, contests the theory that she was shot by a gunman. Nita went into her bedroom while dummy Miles, who had just arrived, to make cocktails. When the body is discovered, no one is seen in the room or in the foyer outside.

Penny Crain, society girl and secretary to the district attorney, tells Dundee that Polly Beale was missing from lunch, and that Nita was annoyed at her unexplained absence. Dundee notes that the women, with the exception of Lois Dunlap, are hostile toward Nita.

Nita's maid, Lydia, is slow in answering, which she attributes to the fact that she has had a tooth extracted that morning. Nita calls Lydia into her bedroom, but none of the guests go in. Dundee finally asks each one to take the places they occupied at the playing of the "death hand."

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

CHAPTER VII.
"Shame on you, Bonnie Dundee!" cried Penny Crain, her small fists clenched indignantly. "Death hand, indeed! You talk like a New York tabloid! And if you don't understand that all of us have stood pretty near as much as we can without having to play the hand at bridge—the very hand we played while Nita was being murdered, then you haven't the decency of human feelings I've credited you with—and told my friends here that you have!"

A murmur of indignant approval accompanied her tirade and burst on for a moment after she had finished, but it ceased abruptly as Dundee spoke:

"Who's conducting this investigation, Penny Crain—you or I? You will kindly let me do it in my own fashion, and try to be content when I tell you that, in my humble opinion, what I propose is absolutely necessary to the solution of this case!"

Rickering—Dundee grinned to himself—exactly as if they had known each other always, had quarreled and made up with fierce intensity for years.

"Really, Mr. Dundee," Judge Hugo Marshall began pompously, embracing his young wife protectively. "I must say that I agree with Miss Crain. This is an outrage, an outrage to all of us, and particularly to this frail little wife of mine, already half-hysterical over the ordeal she has endured."

"Take your places!" Dundee ordered curtly. After all there was a limit to the careful courtesy one must show to Hamilton's inmost circle of society.

Penny led the way to the bridge tables, the very waves of her brown bob seeming to bristle with futile anger. But she obeyed. Dundee smiled. The way to tame this blessed little shrew had been solved by old Bill Shakespeare centuries ago.

As the women took their places at the two tables, arguing a bit among themselves, with semi-hysterical edges to their voices, Dundee watched the men, but all of them, with the exception of Judge Hugo Marshall, that typical son of Broadway, so out of place in this company, had managed at least a fine surface control, their lips, their eyes hard, narrowed and watchful. Sprague slumped into a vacated chair and closed his eyes, revealing finely-wrinkled, yellowish lids.

"Where shall we begin?" Polly Beale demanded brusquely. "Remember, this table had finished playing when Karen began to deal what you call the 'death hand,' she reminded him sorrowfully. "And Flora wasn't here at all. She had been dummy for our last hand."

"And had come out to telephone," Dundee interrupted. "Mrs. Miles, will you please leave the room, and return exactly as you came."

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Let's see your hand, partner," Karen quavered.

idness, was slowly leaving the room also. Through a window opening upon the wide front porch, Dundee saw the girl take her position against a pillar, then—a thing she had not done before very probably—press her handkerchief to her trembling lips.

But the bidding was going on. Karen Marshall plunked up in her treble voice:

"Two spades."

Dundee took his place behind her chair, then silently beckoned to Penny to shift from her own chair opposite Carolyn Drake to the chair Nita Selim had left to go to her death. She nodded understandingly.

"Challenge!" quavered Carolyn Drake, next on the left to the dealer, and managed to raise her eyebrows meaningly to Penny, her partner, who had not yet changed places.

Penny, throwing herself into the spirit of the thing, scowled warningly. No exchanging of illicit signals for Penny Crain! But the instant she slipped into Nita Selim's chair her whole face and body took on a different manner, underwent almost a physical change. She was Nita Selim now! She tucked her head, considered her cards, laughed a little breathless note, then cried triumphantly:

"And I say—five spades! What do you think of that, partner?"

Then the girl who was giving an amazing imitation of Nita Selim changed as suddenly into her own character as she changed chairs.

"Nita, I don't think it's quite safe to be so jubilant about the strength of your hand," she said.

FINISH COUNT ON MEASURES

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 1. (AP)—The secretary of state has made his official canvass of the vote cast in the election of November 4 both on candidates and on measures. The official vote as shown on completed returns from counties received by the secretary of state was announced several days ago. The official tabulation of the vote on measures was completed yesterday.

The official vote on the measures follows:

Repeal of state payment on irrigation and drainage district interest—for, 36,061; against, 74,592; majority for, 38,531.

State cabinet form of government—for, 51,245; against, 135,412; majority against, 84,167.

House loan a constitutional amendment—for, 32,602; against, 101,788; majority against, 69,186.

Motor vehicle license tax constitutional amendment—for 111,441; against, 63,683; majority against, 47,758.

Filling vacancies in legislature—for, 85,335; against, 76,465. Majority for, 8,870.

Increased compensation for legislators—for, 70,937; against, 108,070; majority against, 37,133.

Circuit judge bill—for, 39,770; against, 137,549. Majority against, 97,779.

Anti-cigarette measure—for 54,231; against, 156,265. Majority against, 102,034.

Rogue river trading constitutional amendment—for 36,592; against, 99,490. Majority against, 62,898.

Lieutenant-governor amendment—for, 92,707; against, 95,277. Majority against, 2,570.

Ingram, Armed With Revolver, Chases Robbers

About 4 a. m. Saturday morning G. T. Ingram proprietor of the Altamont Camp Ground was aroused by a noise in the Altamont Lunch Room. Donning his bathrobe and arming himself with a .22 calibre automatic, Ingram started to investigate the cause of the disturbance.

Frightened by the sound of Ingram's steps, two robbers rushed from the lunch room and ran up the highway toward town. Ingram ordered them to halt, firing his revolver in the air. The men failed to obey his command, and he fired lower, but missed his mark. One man was the only loot that the robbers secured in their raid.

MAN SLAIN IN LIQUOR FEUD AT CORVALLIS

CORVALLIS, Dec. 1. (AP)—No other motive than that of a bootlegger feud is the only explanation local police were able to give today for the shooting of E. B. Mills here Saturday night. W. L. Henderson, jailed upon surrendering after he admitted shooting, refused to talk until he had secured an attorney, officers said. It developed that both Henderson and Mills had police records in liquor cases here.

Seven years ago, records show, Henderson was arrested after a wild chase through the town, ending when he threw out a quantity of liquor. Enough was saved, however, to bring conviction and a fine.

Sheriff E. J. Newton and District Attorney Fred McHenry were lining up witnesses and evidence to present before the grand jury which adjourned Saturday, subject to call. As the December term of circuit court opens today, local authorities will ask Judge G. P. Skypworth to reconvene the grand jury immediately so the case may be disposed of during the term, which would set a record for speedy handling of murder cases in Benton county.

Since the killing reports have been circulated that Mills was to be "put on the spot" by Portland bootleggers for alleged hijacking operations, Henderson refused to confirm or deny these reports.

TODAY IN KLAMATH'S THEATRES

AT THE PELICAN

Probably the most hilarious and side-splitting comedy yet to grace the talking screen can be marked off to First National and its appreciated effort, "Top Speed," now convulsing capacity audiences at the Pelican Theatre.

Joe E. Brown, who scored signally in "Hold Everything," has the role of a \$35 a week broker's clerk loose on a vacation among millionaires. Is Joe disheartened? No! Brandishing a foot long cigar he informs all the sundry that he and his partner, who is Jack Whiting, a co-cherk, are really and truly multimillionaires. Mostly, he praises Jack. Yes sir, Jack designed the famous Jack airplane motor, and won last year's speed boat races at Monte Carlo, and is a nominee for the presidency of the New York Stock Exchange.

"Where," the country club girl demands, "is Jack?" "Oh," says Brown, "on the porch. We just tossed for a million dollars and he won. He's counting his money."

Brown's boasting of Jack's speed boat skill finally gets Jack invited to pilot the boat belonging to Bernice Claire's father. The rival manufacturing concern has a representative at the race who recognizes Jack, and under threat that he will expose him before the girl he loves, demands that Jack take a \$30,000 bribe to throw the race.

The climax is a gripping, realistic picture of an actual record-breaking race which is decided to everyone's satisfaction—except the rival concerns.

Laura Lee has the comedienne's role and New York critics have acclaimed the port star the outstanding funster in filmdom. Frank McHugh is featured in a prominent part and portrays a drunk in his inimitable fashion. Bernice Claire's wonderful soprano is a revelation to all who hear her. Opposite her is the New York stage favorite, Jack Whiting.

The picture has been directed by Mervyn Le Roy, and represents a really and truly side-splitting film.

AT THE PINE TREE

Amid the cat-tail of machine guns, the screaming of police sirens, and the screeching of patrolmen's whistles the Universal all-talking production of the "Car of Broadway" opened at the Pine Tree theatre Sunday.

It is a fast moving story of the underworld, depicting the plan and counter plots of the underworld politicians in a thrilling manner. The story approaches the subject of the underworld from an entirely new angle.

John Wray, who plays the principal role of Mort Bradley, gives a magnificent performance. He is a new personality to picture fans. He has a splendid reputation for crook parts on the New York stage. Betty Compson, who has appeared in numerous crook plays during her career, gives her best performance to date as Connie Colton in the "Car of Broadway." King Baggot makes his return to the screen in this Universal picture and gives an excellent characterization as Dane Harper. Other in the cast include John Harmon, Wilbur Mack, Claude Allister and Edmund Broese.

An interesting romance is interwoven into the underworld theme and is handled with great directorial expertness by director William J. Craft. John Harmon as Jay Grant, the reporter, and Betty Compson as Connie Colton form an exceptionally brilliant team. Their romance is a thrilling one that is carried on amid the storm and strife of underworld conflicts. They surmount seemingly impossible obstacles in their efforts to be but a few moments together.

The picture as a whole is one of the most exciting tales of the metropolitan underworld that has been shown. The all star cast is truly one of stellar material with each individual giving a splendid performance.

Sawmills Reduce Lumber Output to Very Low Figure

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 1.—A total of 303 mills reporting to the West Coast Lumbermen's association have operated during the past two weeks at the lowest per cent of capacity since the weeks in which the Fourth of July and the Labor Day shutdowns occurred. These mills operated at 44.46 per cent of capacity during the week ending November 22, as compared with 41.69 per cent for the previous week and with 65 per cent during the early part of 1930. In the 26-week period since the week ending May 24, the industry has operated at 47.16 per cent of capacity, which has resulted in more than one billion feet being cut from production.

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Public Invited To Elks Memorial

Plans are being completed for the Elks' Memorial services to be held on December 7 at 8 p. m. at the Elks' temple, and Elated Ruler Elbert S. Veatch of the lodge yesterday issued an invitation to the public to attend.

Musical numbers, a prominent speaker and the usual Elks' Memorial exercises will be presented.

"I wish to invite the citizens of the community and particularly all visiting Elks to attend the Memorial services of our lodge on Sunday, December 7, at 8 o'clock in the evening," Mr. Veatch stated.

NEWS ITEMS OF FORT KLAMATH

MRS. A. ENGLE

FORT KLAMATH, Ore., Dec. 1. (Special)—Pete O'Connor, who has been spending a week in Los Angeles on business, returned Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Briscoe moved into one of Mr. Ballou's cabins Thursday.

Bert Gray and two children, Donald and Barbara, and Mrs. George Gray and daughter, Alice, motored to Klamath Falls on Friday, where they visited with Mrs. Bert Gray and infant daughter, Ruth Ann.

Mrs. Ann McKeever of Chiloquin motored over Friday to attend a birthday party. She was accompanied by Mrs. Amy Ryan, who is spending the winter in Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Montgomery are the parents of a baby daughter, born November 21, at their home. The baby has been named Malon Faye.

Mrs. Edith McKee and son of Klamath Falls were business visitors in Fort Klamath Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Noah are the parents of a baby girl, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wampler are the parents of a new son, and Mr. and Mrs. F. P. How are the parents of a baby girl. All babies were born last Sunday at the Klamath Valley hospital in Klamath Falls. Dr. Massey was the attending physician in each case. All the mothers and babies are reported as doing nicely.

John Copeland of Fort Klamath, who suffered a light stroke of paralysis Saturday, is reported to be improving satisfactorily.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Miller left Sunday for Dilard, Oregon, where they will spend the winter.

Mrs. Noelle, a teacher in the local schools, spent the week end in Klamath Falls.

The J. P. McAuliffe ranch house was completely destroyed by fire about 6:30 Monday morning.

It is thought that the fire started from a defective flue.

Pete O'Connor motored to Klamath Falls last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Rasmussen of San Francisco arrived in Fort Klamath Monday evening to spend several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Varnum, who spent the summer at Forest camp, have returned to their home at Fort Klamath for the winter.

Mrs. Arthur Nicholas left Tuesday for Susanville, Calif., where she spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, Mrs. Frank Abbott and family.

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