

SERIAL STORY

NEW YORK JUNGLE

BY WRAY WADE SEVERN

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YESTERDAY, continuing his questioning, Plozman interviewed Nella and Mrs. Langdon. When the officer's questions seem to be trapping Gundrum, Pat reveals that he had written Adam, asking that he would marry him. Pat opened the letter by mistake. Plozman demands the shadow.

BARKES SEES A SHADOW

CHAPTER XI

UNDER Plozman's continued questioning, Pat admitted that Adam had not been himself during the day. He had refused to drive to the Country Club with the family and had locked himself in the Jungle. Not until Nella had gone downstairs to plead with him had he changed his mind.

"Miss Nella Langdon is a neurotic," Plozman said, after Pat had left the drawing room. "She looks a lot like her uncle."

"There is a neurotic strain somewhere on the grandmother's side," Sidney admitted. "Nella's father and Adam Langdon were brothers, so she comes in for it, too. Hugh had a different grandmother and escapes."

Hugh Langdon was called. He corroborated Nella's account of Adam's unusual behavior but was unable to account for it.

"I've had no more than a five-minute talk with my cousin since his return," he said gravely. "But I felt that there had been a serious change in him."

"What did you discuss during that five minutes?" Plozman asked.

"My cousin's marriage had come as a surprise to the family; we discussed it," Hugh replied briefly. "What reason did he give for surprising you?"

"He disliked using wireless for intimate revelations and, since he had married just before sailing, there had been no time for letters."

THE arrival of a sheriff, a medical examiner, and a photographer delayed the examinations so that neither Marta nor Craig Gundrum were questioned until long after the other guests had made statements.

Guarded by a state trooper, Craig and Marta had waited in the library and whether or not Craig had persuaded Marta to slant her testimony toward his theory of the murder, Sidney could not know. He doubted it.

Finally Gundrum was called. "Let's get this over with as quickly as possible," he snapped. "I have an 11 o'clock class in the morning, and must make an early train. It's 2 o'clock now."

"Sorry, Professor. I will have to hold you all here for at least 24 hours, unless something definite turns up to release you from possible implication."

"Can he do that, Braitwood?" Craig demanded angrily.

"I'm sorry to say that he has the authority. We shall all have to make the best of it, Gundrum."

"Fire away, Mr. Policeman," Gundrum directed, grimly.

He made a good witness. He admitted his former engagement to Pat, but denied that he had returned to the Jungle instead of searching the storeroom.

"You will," he explained, "find my fingerprints in the storeroom if you care to look. I moved several pieces of large furniture to look behind them."

Before leaving, he managed to give his theory of the crime to Plozman. As it stood, allowing that the murderer had been after a mythical map or one of the rare old weapons, it was not impossible that Adam Langdon had been shot by someone either already hidden in the Jungle, who had left after the door was opened, or by a person who had entered under a cover of darkness. Apparently Plozman was impressed.

WHEN Marta's turn came, it flashed into Sidney's mind that this was the strangest "entrance" she was ever to make.

"How did you find your way to the lions in pitch darkness, Miss Hempfield?" Plozman asked gently.

"I have played Lady Macbeth, Captain Plozman," Marta told him, simply.

"In my sleepwalking scene I had to reach a given place with my eyes closed. At first I counted my steps, but after a while I found I could judge distance without counting. This evening Mr. Langdon had pointed out to me that he had placed his new lioness directly in front of the door, a place of honor. I knew that if I turned at a right angle when I touched her I would be in direct line for the door, so I started with one hand held out."

Both men knew what that outstretched hand had encountered. They listened, fascinated by the sheer drama of the recital.

"I couldn't see. I groped." She paused and continued, "I touched Adam's coat. I thought at first it was a thief, and terror gripped me. But I did not scream then. I reasoned that if the man thought I believed I'd touched one of the specimens, he would remain immobile as he was. I lifted my hand slightly and then I felt—"

Again she paused and swallowed. "I felt the scar in the little cleft on Adam's chin. His face was lifeless—cold. He did not speak and—somehow I knew. That is the last I remember. They tell me I screamed and fainted."

THERE was silence for a moment. Plozman rose and brought Marta a glass of sherry from a decanter on the table.

He waited while she sipped the wine, then asked: "Did you notice anyone removing the key from the door, Miss Hempfield?"

"Remove the key? The door

it, the more I believe someone was hiding behind the door." "A still shadow, now. Did it look like anyone you know?" "It wasn't tall enough for Mr. Hugh Langdon, nor short enough for Togi," Barkes said. "Otherwise I couldn't say. It was like seeing something in a play, watching that silhouette." (To Be Continued)



BANDMAN—Dressed for the part, Fred W. Pike, director of the McAlester prison band at McAlester, Okla., shows how he'll add sartorial color to a rodeo soon to be presented. Note that his name is well displayed on the fancy chaps.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. WILLIAMS



BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With MAJOR HOOPLE



TAGGING HIM OUT

RED RYDER

BY FRED HARMAN



LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE



BY HAROLD GRAY

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



ANSWER: About 13,000 feet, or approximately two and one-half miles.



WASH TUBBS



BY CRANE



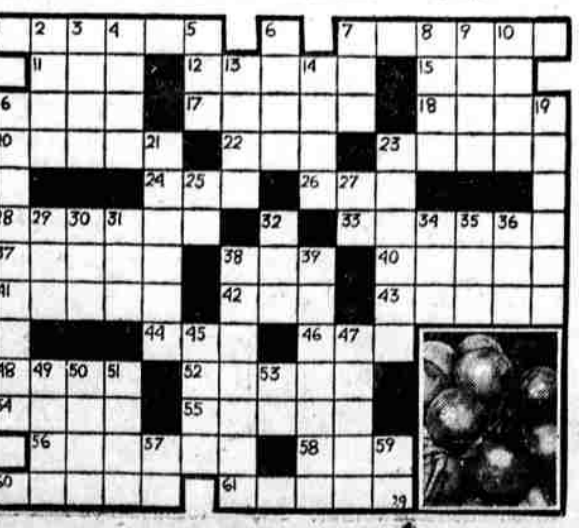
FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS



BY BLOSSER

BREAKFAST FRUIT

HORIZONTAL Answer to Previous Puzzle
1 Juicy fruit.
7 It grows on a tree.
11 Wine vessel.
12 Father.
15 Organ of hearing.
16 At any time.
17 Sarcasm.
18 Too.
20 Sells.
22 To chew.
23 Sheep's call.
24 Possessed.
26 Ever (contr.).
28 To redeem.
33 Long-drawn speech.
37 Cupidity.
38 Uncooked.
40 Giver.
41 Valued.
42 To do wrong.
43 Redacts.
44 To bark.
46 Onager.
48 Enthusiasm.
52 Enamel.
54 Fastidious.
55 To scorch.
56 Broach.
58 Field.
60 This fruit is rightly called a...
61 To open pea pods.
62 To be furious.
63 To sanction.
64 Its tree is or verdant in winter.
65 Animals.
66 Inferior cloth.
67 wear its blossoms.
68 Common verb.
69 And.
70 Heavenly body.
71 Tennis fence.
72 To observe.
73 Biennial.
74 Scepter.
75 Blackbird.
76 Downy.
77 To argue.
78 Part of a church.
79 Hardened iron.
80 Italian coins.
81 Maple shrub.
82 Close by.
83 Within.
85 Belonging to me.
86 Dye.
87 Matgrass.
88 Roof ornament.
89 Portico.
90 To weep.
91 Wild duck.
92 Breathing sound.
93 Bear constellation.
94 God of war.
95 Grafted.



ALLEY OOP



BY V. T. HAMLIN

