

WOMEN WON'T TALK

BY RENE RYERSON MART

Copyright, 1943, NEA Service, Inc.

CHAPTER XXI

THE thing as I saw it was just crazy enough to be possible: Clint Mattison, a gangster, wanted by the police, renting the Cottage as a hideaway, and then having his plans upset when Derek Grady came to Kraiktower to hide, too. And here was where another detail dovetailed perfectly. It had been the morning of the day we found Derek's body that Mattison had come up to the big house to pay his rent. All I had to do was to suppose that Derek had seen Mattison and recognized him as he went back to the Cottage, and that Mattison had shot Derek rather than risk exposure. He had a gun. I had seen it the night in the Cottage when I had fled from the Thing on the path. He had taken a gun and a flashlight out of his desk.

Of course, there was the book Mattison had given Kathy to read, the one she had left on my desk in the study. But if Mattison was as clever as he appeared to be, he might have figured it was safer to assume the name of a real writer and supply himself with some of said writer's work to make it more convincing.

I was quite excited about it by the time I reached home, and the first thing I did was to look in the study for Mattison's book. I got the publisher's name and address from the fly leaf and then convinced the telephone girl in the village that I really wanted to send a telegram.

Sulkily, she read the message back to me.

PLEASE WRITE FULL DESCRIPTION CLINT MATTISON AUTHOR OF TIME FOR MURDER URGENT.

I GOT downstairs the next day just in time to see George Baker arrive. He stepped out of a gray convertible with red leather seats, and I blinked twice to be sure I wasn't looking at a cut from Esquire.

Kathy gave him her cheek and he pecked at it before piping up: "Ghastly business, isn't this, darling?"

I grunted. How Kathy was going to stand his innane remarks the rest of her life was more than I could imagine.

But Kathy, with a straight face, assured him that it was a bad business, and George shook hands with Walter and Connie and came toward me. And I was conscious only of my personal dislike for him! It seems impossible now that I shouldn't have felt some premonition at that moment of what his coming meant.

It didn't take a clairvoyant to see that George was plenty bothered about the notoriety centering on the girl he was going to marry, and that he was at white heat to clear it up at once. He said that most of the papers were letting Derek's death slide as a gang murder, but that there were all kinds of rumors going around. I asked what kind of rumors, but he wouldn't be specific.

He had the attitude that we were too stupid, or too naive, to know how to handle the situation and it put my back up. I smiled at him, and slipped the knife in casually. "George, I think you ought to know that the police have discarded the idea of a gang murder even if the newspapers have not."

He ogled me rather foolishly. "What—what do you mean?" "The Chicago police have checked up on Derek's Chicago pals, and not one of them could possibly have been near Kraiktower the day Derek was killed."

George took out an expensive handkerchief and mopped his brow. "Then that leaves—"

I gave the knife a mean turn. "Just us here at the house as suspects—and the servants are accounted for."

HE stared at me. I went on. "You have guessed why Derek came here, haven't you?"

"To hide, I suppose."

"Nothing of the kind. He was blackmailing Kathy."

That certainly punctured George's opinionated smugness. He nearly fainted. It was the only fun I had had that day. But it didn't last long. He mopped his brow again, and his logical mind seized upon the one thing that had stopped the police from making any arrest so far. "After all, it doesn't really matter—as long as the police haven't found the weapon."

The weight settled back on my heart. "But they have," I said

tonelessly. "A friend of ours is going to hand it over to them today."

Walter gave me a murderous look. He hadn't thought my frank factlessness a bit funny. He told George about the gun being found in the pool, and the bit of cloth caught in its trigger.

George looked desperate, and it was then he said the thing that started everything moving to its swift and appointed end. "That's fine! All the police have to do now is check that bit of cloth with the clothes of all you suspects and find out whose coat or dress was covering the gun when it was fired. There'll be powder marks on it, and probably a hole where the bullet went through, certainly a hole where the gun hammer took out a piece of the cloth."

All at once I was seeing Connie as she had been dressed that morning, the morning of the day Derek was killed. Connie in that slack suit with its dark coat cut

JIFFY-KNIT JACKET IS CASUAL; YOUNG



by Alice Brooks

Here's the answer to a maiden's prayer for "a knitted jacket to slip on over everything!" It's a jiffy-knit of knitting worsted or cotton, and done in an easily memorized pattern stitch. The yoke and sleeves show up well in stockinette stitch. Pattern 7553 contains instructions for jacket in sizes 12-14, 16-18; list of materials needed; stitches.

To obtain this pattern send 11 cents in coin to The Herald and News, Household Arts Dept., Klamath Falls. Do not send this picture, but keep it and the number for reference. Be sure to wrap coin securely, as a loose coin often slips out of the envelope. Requests for patterns should read, "Send pattern No. _____ to _____ followed by your name and address."

HOLD EVERYTHING!



"No, no, Mike—the mice stay!"

like a man's. The slack suit that I had thought since she had worn to cover the bruise on her arm... but... she could have carried a gun concealed in a pocket of that coat!

And Kathy flying down the stairs when Mattison and I went out into the hall that morning. Kathy in a polka-dotted sport dress and wearing a black wool coat with huge patch pockets! For that matter I had worn black that day myself.

(To Be Continued)

Uncle Sam promises all common household articles will be simplified. And we hope this takes the drip out of leaky faucets.



At SEARS... IT'S NOT THE IDLE RICH WHO CLIP THE COUPONS

No indeed! It's the regular folks who, sometimes run short of money and like the convenience of Purchase Coupons in their purse. Get a bookful today, and spend them like cash when you need them. Small down payment, usual carrying charge.

GET YOURS TODAY AT Your SEARS CREDIT Office

Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



THE REALISTS

Our Boarding House

With Major Hoopie



HE'S LAYING SMOKE SCREENS

Red Ryder

By Fred Harmon

Before the first Marauder bomber was delivered to the army air forces, 485,000 man-hours of engineering were required and an additional 440,000 hours have been added to make the changes suggested by combat experience.

A new type plane is built under the direction of a project engineer who has about 29 different varieties of engineer specialists under him, many of whom have nothing to do with parts that make the plane fly.

A professional says a good elbow is needed in golf. Especially on the 19th hole.



THIS CURIOUS WORLD

By William Ferguson



QUONING COINS

THE SMALLER A FRACTION IS, THE LARGER IT IS, says BONNIE JEAN THORNTON, Ursa, Illinois.

LAID END TO END, 250,000 OF THE SMALLEST BACTERIA WOULD MEASURE ONLY ONE INCH.

NEXT: Planting the Stars and Stripes on high.

NEW SINGING STAR

HORIZONTAL

1.6 Pictured singer

12 Surgical saw

13 Mineral

14 Belongs to it

16 Cereal

17 Compensate

19 Serpent

20 Greek letter

21 Beverage

22 Long fish

24 Symbol for manganese

25 Aeriform fuel

26 Flow back

29 Fishing pole

30 Spun wool

32 Serai

34 Parish

35 Type of violin

38 Sign

38 Demon

39 Child

41 Crimson

43 Therefore

45 He was born in — Jersey

47 Period of time

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NEBRASKA STARES

ELEMENT LINCOLN

AMARRR FORT ASIA

TONDO FLOE DREG

EAT TRET TEE

CAD TREETRADER

ARERIE GRINRO

BEDLAM CLERANT

DAPALASER

GRADASTER

RIMBITVI

ADDEMOTES

B CONSPIRE

15 He — his way to fame

18 One who dreams

21 Prohibit

23 Behold!

25 Meet

27 Courageous

28 Befalls

31 Purpose

32 Possessed

33 Measure

37 Not (prefix)

40 Four (comb form)

42 Behind the times

44 Verbal

46 Document

48 Harvest

50 Piece out

52 Night before

53 Observe

54 Sea eagle

55 Mode

56 Cloth measure

60 Toward

VERTICAL

49 Before

51 Locks of hair

54 Female sheep

57 Ox of Tibet

58 Split asunder

59 Pertaining to stars

61 Recipient of a legacy

62 Flower

1 Minute

11 Minute particle

2 Steep in water

12 He used to

3 Apostle (abbr.)

4 Nostrils

5 Leg joint

6 Title of respect

7 Anger

8 Organ of smell

9 Genus of geese

10 Chest bone

"I just drifted while on sentry duty!"

Freckles and His Friends

By Blosser



Wash Tubbs

By Crane



Boots and Her Buddies

By V. T. Homlin



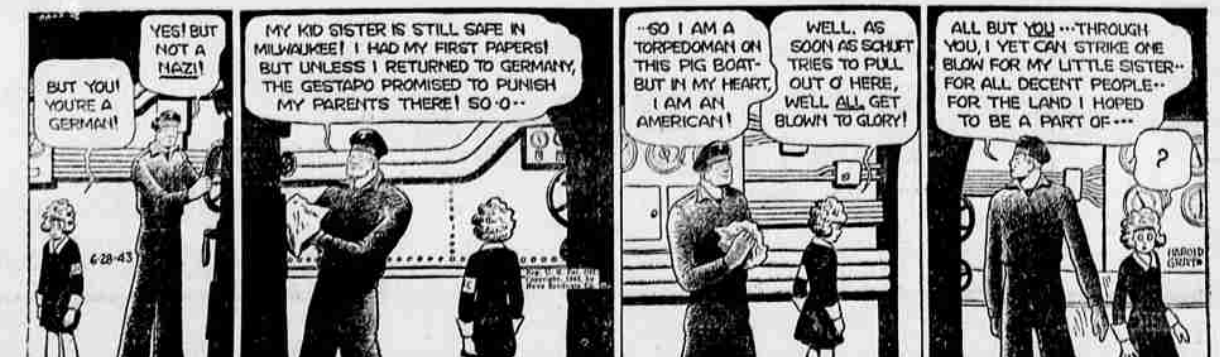
Allep Oop

By Martin



Little Orphan Annie

By Harold Gray



FUNNY BUSINESS



"I just drifted while on sentry duty!"