

7-17-35 DIVORCE COURT MURDER



By MILTON PROPPER

HARPER & BROTHERS

Sixteenth Instalment

... Keith, wife of a ... in a side room ... of ... in a ... was ...

circumstantial evidence. The difficulty was that, despite a thorough canvassing of all city druggists, Rankin's assistants had thus far been unable to trace it.

Unless his quarry had never bought the drug at all! The idea that occurred to the detective at that instant caused him to break off his conversation with Mr. Roche. Suddenly he had recalled an item of information Mortimer Keith had casually dropped early in the case. At the time he could attach no importance to it, and quickly forgot it; now it suggested a startling possibility that made him stiffen and breathe excitedly, as he pondered it. He did not believe some one else bought the chloroform for (Dennis); that was too great a risk.



Rankin advanced to the apartment door and boldly seized the brass knocker.

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And if he figured wrongly, he would fall back on the canvass of the city, though that would delay the final arrest. In one conclusion he had faith. Sooner or later, he allowed the man's movements during the last one or two weeks prior to the murder, he would discover the source of the weapon he used.

The detective immediately acted on his theory and decision. As soon as he finished his business with the secretary, he returned to the Union station and at 6:15 caught a train for Philadelphia.

Three hours later the train deposited him in Broad Street Station and he went directly to City Hall to complete the necessary formalities, then arched with the warrant, he departed and walked briskly down Broad Street to Pine. Here he turned, and just past 10th Street he stopped before a bleakly respectable brown-stone house, four stories high. The lower windows were dark; but a brass shingle on one front sill—"Dr. Anton Brantman" indicated that one of the most eminent specialists in ailments of the head lived there.

Though it was long after office hours, Rankin rang the bell. Five minutes elapsed before footsteps echoed along the stairs announced Brantman's approach.

Without any comment he led Rankin into the lofty waiting room or patients' room.

Rankin apologized for the intrusion and then came directly to the point. His first query caused Dr. Brantman to shake a solemn head and tighten his lips with a sigh.

"Yes, I was well acquainted with Mrs. Keith," he replied; "I treated her for headaches. ... A dreadful business that." He paused and made commiserating sounds. "Only I don't think it was Wednesday evening, May twenty-fourth, that she consulted me last; it was several days later."

He went with Rankin into his private office. "Yes, I am right," he pointed a finger at a scrawled, almost illegible notation. "Here it is, two days later, at eight-thirty, on Friday, May twenty-sixth."

"Of course, doctor, that fits in perfectly after all," declared Rankin. "She couldn't have visited you Wednesday. She was accompanied, wasn't she, Dr. Brantman?"

At the physician's reply, his face brightened with a half smile of confidence. After that more eagerly and rapidly he began to put his questions, insistently pressing upon Dr. Brantman his startling inspiration.

Finally, the doctor could no longer contain his uneasiness. "I don't doubt, Mr. Rankin, that what you suggest is possible," he admitted. My nurse, Miss Vickers, wasn't here to watch and I had no other patients; and my drug shelves are quite open. If I happened to be occupied at this desk, I might not notice what went on behind the screen. Only it's so difficult to believe."

"Not if you knew the person we're dealing with as well as I do," Rankin returned.

"But wouldn't Mrs. Keith be curious about the theft? She'd question it, or stop him, or inform me of it."

"She was in no position to prevent anything," Rankin explained. "She didn't dare interfere. ... You had better look, doctor, to find out whether I'm mistaken. But just point out the drug; we must be careful not to destroy any clues or prints."

"I hope to God you are wrong," Dr. Brantman murmured fervently. More pallid than usual, he stepped behind the screen. The

poles to a stake in Whittenburg's line, thence N. 40 W. 46 poles to a stump, thence N. 15 poles to a stake, thence N. 39 W. 13 poles to a chinquapin, thence N. 67 W. 10 poles to a black oak; thence S 45 W. 2 poles to a stake, thence W. 31 poles to a chestnut, thence S. 19 W. 13 poles to a post oak, thence S. 80 degs. W. 27 poles to the beginning, containing 3 1/2 and 3-4 acres, less one acre heretofore conveyed by Mack Whittenburg to Jack Murr.

Second Tract: Adjoining the lands of L. W. Allen and others.

Beginning at a pine, thence S. 40 E. 54 poles to a stake and pointers on a ridge, thence N. 68 E. 38 poles to a pine, thence N. 52 W. 40 poles with Meigs and Freeman line to a stake in the field, thence N. 33 E. to L. W. Allen line, thence with Allen line to a small Spanish oak, thence with top of ridge to beginning corner at pine, with all minerals excepted on the leading ridge West of the main line.

This the 2nd day of October, 1935. THE JOURNAL, now 52 weeks for V. L. COPE, Commissioner \$1.00 in Jackson County. All home print. No patent inside.

Follows Dad's Order



LYNN, MASS. ... Carelton Nichols, 8, (above), refused to salute the flag or sing "America" at school. His father, member of a religious sect which thinks all man-made emblems the symbol of the devil, had told his son to decline. The father was arrested and awaits trial.

WATERBURY'S

Be Sure They Properly Cleanse the Blood

YOUR kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as nature intended—fail to remove impurities that poison the system when retained.

Then you may suffer nagging backache, dizziness, scanty or too frequent urination, getting up at night, swollen limbs; feel nervous, miserable—all upset.

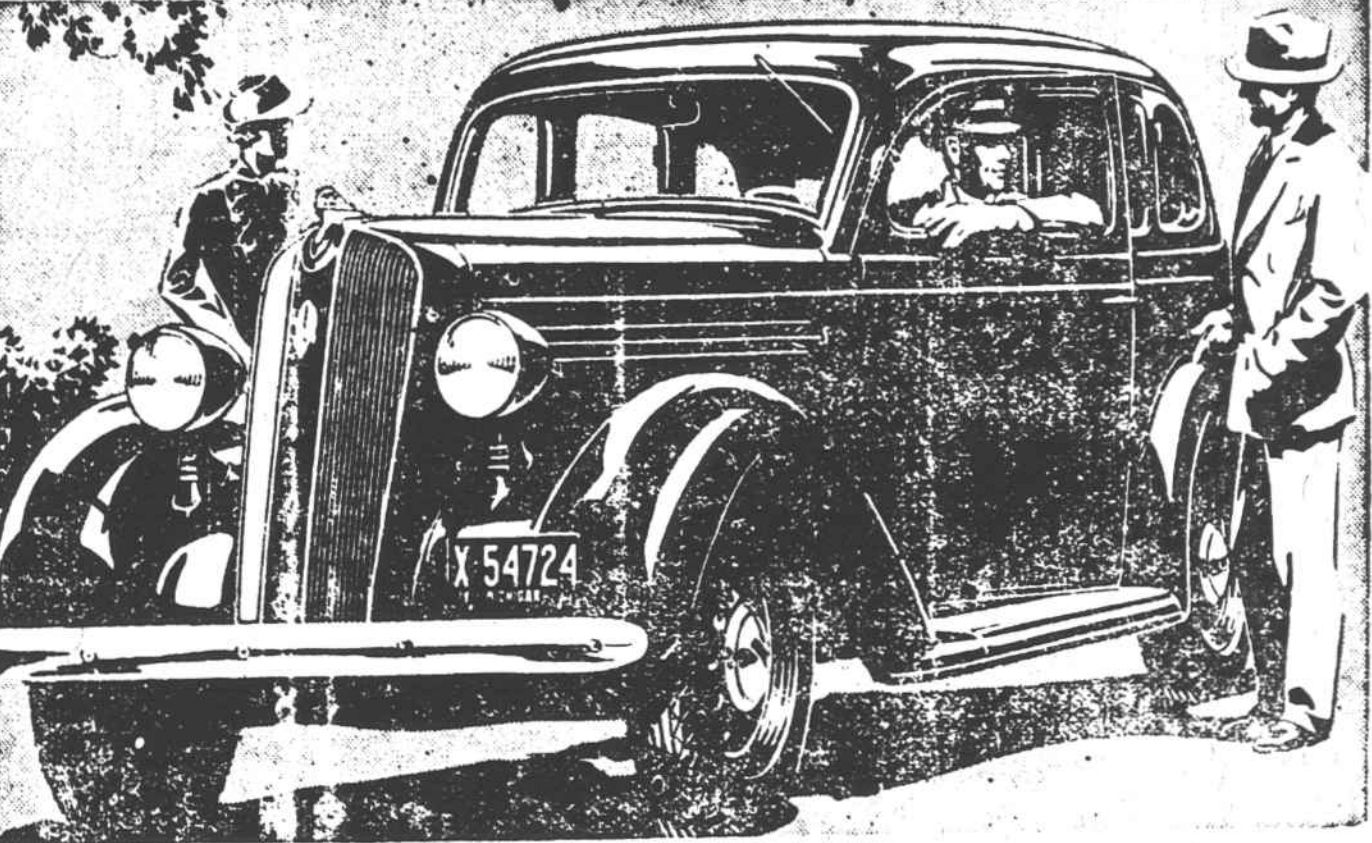
Don't delay! Use Doan's Pills. Doan's are especially for poorly functioning kidneys. They are recommended by grateful users the country over. Get them from any druggist.

DOAN'S PILLS

THE OLD MASTER by A. B. Chapin



The New 1936 Plymouth is Here!



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HERE is the perfect value, and elegance of design and trim! an absolutely thrilling luxury. The world's most economical for you, when you see the beautiful new 1936 Plymouth. And when you ride in it and find out about its new roominess, comfort and economy, you will agree that it is "Perfection." Come in today. It's on display at—

Cogdill Motor Company

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND

North Carolina, Jackson County.

Under and by virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Jackson County, made in a special proceeding entitled, V. L. Cope, Administrator of Mack Whittenburg, deceased, vs. Mack Whittenburg and J. E. Jeanie Mae Whittenburg and J. E. Jeanie Mae Whittenburg and J. E. Jeanie Mae Whittenburg and wife, Mrs. Eury Whittenburg, Et. al., the undersigned Commissioner will, on the 4th day of November, 1935, at 12:00 o'clock, noon, at the Court House door in Sylva, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, that certain tract of land, lying and being in Sylva Township, Jackson County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning of the lands of Cole Furgarner, P. C. Reed, Peter Bryson and others, and bounded as follows:

Beginning on a small white oak on the Hog Pen Ridge, in or near P. C. Reed's line, N. E. of the old house place, and runs thence S. 38 deg. E. 27 poles to a bunch of small dogwoods on the S. bank of the branch; thence S. 8 degs. E. 39 poles to a pine on top of the hill; thence S. 85 degs. E. 83 poles to a small chestnut oak on top of the ridge; thence N. 20 E. 6 poles to a large black oak, thence N. 13

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