

# The MOUTHPIECE

BY EDGAR WALLACE AND ROBERT CURTIS

CHAPTER 33

JACQUELINE turned again toward Lutman's desk, laid a hand against the drawer, and was about to close it when she paused and stooped, peering at the typewritten words on the long, folded paper that had caught her eye. "Copy of the last will and testament of Alan Redfern," she read; and the next moment she had whipped the document out of the drawer and was staring at it with a puzzled frown.

Locked in the bathroom Lutman rapped on the door again, and his voice called her name. But she took no notice; she was thinking furiously, trying to understand the exact significance of her discovery. If this was a copy of her uncle Alan Redfern's will, did that mean that he was dead? If so, how was it that neither she nor her mother had heard of it? That, at any rate, would explain why his usual monthly allowance to her mother had not arrived last month. And if he were dead, what on earth was this copy of his will doing in the drawer of Colonel Lutman's desk? Where did Colonel Lutman come into it? As far as she was aware, he had never heard of her Uncle Alan.

She unfolded the document and began to read, glimpsing here and there a clear-cut idea in the fog of legal phraseology:

"Alan Redfern... New York... last will and testament... to my niece Jacqueline Mary Smith... In the event... being herself deceased... the whole of my estate... Millicent Agnes Maud Smith..."

Jacqueline read on, but the words swam before her eyes and carried no clear message to her brain. One million and five hundred thousand dollars—hers! And suddenly understanding swooped into her mind. The deed that she had signed, the scheme to marry her to Jim Asson, Colonel Lutman's anxiety that the marriage should take place, his attempt, when she had refused to marry Jim, to marry her himself, his willingness to cash that check for her mother, Miss Harrington's revelations about Jim's past—every incident fitted in perfectly and convinced her that at last, in this document that she had found in Colonel Lutman's desk, she had discovered the key to the whole mystery. And the very fact that the Colonel was in possession of a copy of the will added the last overwhelming proof. A million and a half dollars—and she had signed that deed which, if she had gone through with the marriage, would have handed over every penny of it to Jim Asson! No wonder he had been willing to make her mother an allowance!

She was suddenly aware of a vague feeling that she was not alone, remembered that when she had discovered the document Colonel Lutman had been knocking at the door and calling to her, and realized that the knocking and calling had ceased some moments ago. She glanced at the door, took a step toward it, and hesitated; and then, as the vague sensation that she was being watched suddenly changed to conviction, she turned, shot a quick, apprehensive glance round the room, gave a start of surprise and stood rigid, staring. Against the wall opposite the window a heavy curtain had been pulled aside, revealing a door into another room; and standing in the doorway, watching her with a faint smile on his lips, was Colonel Lutman. Instinctively, as she saw him, her fingers tightened their grip on the document and she took a step backward. The Colonel's smile became more pronounced.

"One of the first principles of successful crime, my dear Jacqueline," he said suavely, "is that when there are two doors to a room it is useless to lock only one of them. That I can assure you, is quite elementary. Another excellent rule is, 'Always suspect a curtain!'"

He took a few leisurely steps into the room, paused, and lighted a cigarette.

"A pretty talent for felony seems to run in your family, my dear," he said. "First worthless checks, and then burglary—you will soon have quite a creditable dossier." He glanced at the desk and shook his head. "A rather clumsy job, Jacqueline. I'm afraid I can't congratulate you on it. You have scratched the desk and bent the paper knife, and you haven't even got away with the swag." He waved a hand toward the document she was holding.

"Would it be troubling you if I asked you to replace that paper where you found it?"

Except that her fingers gripped the document a little more tightly, Jacqueline made no move. Still smiling, he went to her and held out his hand.

"Allow me to save you the trouble." Still the girl remained motionless, and with a sudden movement his hand seized the document and jerked it from her grasp. Then, turning to the desk, he replaced the paper and shut the drawer.

"And now, my dear Jacqueline, don't you think I'm entitled to some sort of explanation?"

"There's nothing to explain," she said.

He raised his eyebrows. "Surely, when you visit a friend's flat, it is a little unusual to force the lock of his desk?"

"There's nothing to explain to you," said the girl, "because you know perfectly well why I forced the lock."

"I can hazard a guess," he admitted.

"And there's no need for you to explain anything to me. I understand everything."

"Except the gentle art of burglary," smiled the Colonel. "You have still a lot to learn about that, my dear. Success is the only justification for any type of crime, and a burglar who fails to get away with the loot..."

"I have got away with it."

Again he raised his eyebrows.

"Indeed?"

"I've got away with everything that matters," said Jacqueline.

"You may have the copy of Uncle Alan's will, but that isn't of the least consequence. I've read it, and I know what's in it. That's the loot that really matters."

"I see," said the Colonel. "So you have read it, have you?"

"And understand it."

"Naturally, my dear. I don't doubt that. I have always had a very high opinion of your intelligence."

"And I understand, Colonel Lutman, exactly just what you and Jim Asson..."

"Of course. In view of the legal lack of lucidity, that is a very creditable performance. And I admit that, from your point of view, the loot, as you are pleased to call it, is of considerable value. But when you say that you have got away with it..."

He shook his head. "I wouldn't be too sure of that, my dear."

"I've got the information, Colonel Lutman," she reminded him, "and you can't take that away from me."

"Quite," agreed the Colonel.

"But swag has to be disposed of, my dear. That is always a problem which the burglar has to consider, and in this case..."

"In this case I know just how to dispose of it. I am going straight away now to see Mr. Stuckey."

"The estimable Charles!" smiled Lutman. "The damsel in distress rushes for help to Charles Stuckey because she believes that Charles Stuckey is an honorable man! But once again, my dear, I wouldn't be too sure of that."

"I am sure of it."

"The Colonel gave a shrug."

"You may have to revise your opinion, Jacqueline," he said. "I'm sorry, my dear, to shatter your illusion, but if Charles is the honorable man you believe him to be, why didn't he tell you about your uncle, Alan Redfern? Why did he induce you to sign that deed which would have handed your entire fortune over to young Jim Asson? Why?"

"I don't know," interrupted the girl. "I don't pretend to know. Charles, perhaps, knew nothing about the will."

(To Be Continued)

## Highway Purge To Go Still Further

(Continued from Page One.)

known to be just as bitterly opposed to Baise as they were to Waynick, the prevailing belief now is that they will eventually "get" Baise as well. In fact, there are reports to the effect that those forces would have consented to the reappointment of Waynick if he would have agreed to let Baise go—but that Waynick told their emissaries to "go to hell." It is also recalled that it was not until after Waynick and the old commission had finally and definitely advanced Baise from acting chief highway engineer to chief highway engineer that the campaign to get rid of Waynick really became determined. On the part of certain contractors, road materials producers and politicians, including the "Deacon" Green, Asheville and Buncombe county faction. Many are convinced that one of the principal reasons for the pressure applied to Governor Hoey to keep him from reappointing Waynick was that many of these felt they could never get rid of Baise as long as Waynick remained chairman, with the result that the first step was hence to get rid of Waynick. Now that this has been accomplished, the next step will be to eliminate Baise. Not right at first, of course—the new commission needs some one in the organization that knows something about roads and the present road program. But most observers agree that all signs point to the ultimate going of Baise as chief engineer.

### Ross Faces Better Luck

Charles Ross is expected to fare better, since Ross is both a lawyer and a politician. He has managed to hold on through the administrations of Governors Cameron Morrison, A. W. McLean, O. Max Gardner and J. C. B. Ehringhaus without much ruffling of his political feathers—and indications now are that he will survive the present house-cleaning in the highway department. Some maintain that he is one of the most adept political tight-wire walkers in the State in that he either manages to keep a precarious balance, or else, cat-like, land on his feet in the life net below, to mount the tight wire again, regardless of who becomes governor. It is also agreed that Ross has a tremendous and profound knowledge of highway conditions and history that is almost indispensable to any chairman or any administration. These considerations and the fact that Harnett county gave Hoey a bigger vote in the first primary than any of the other candidates, although it went for Dr. Ralph McDonald in the second, are expected to help Ross hold his job.

### Fate of Pitts Speculated

Opinion is considerably divided as to the fate of Oscar Pitts, since it is agreed that he has done an excellent job as acting director of the prison division, was faithful and efficient in working out the changes that have been made in the prison system, under the direction of Waynick. It is conceded that Pitts has brought the prison morale up to a very high standard, that he has the confidence and respect of the prison personnel and of some of the guards and others who have been held over from the old State Prison regime of George Rose-Pou. These will undoubtedly try to "get" Pitts, since they frankly do not like the way he has administered the prison for the benefit of the prisoners and the State rather than for the benefit of those running the prison.

### ZULIEKA

"The Voice of Wisdom" In Person on the Stage at the Stevenson Theatre  
Princess Zulieka, astrologist and psycho-mental, known to millions through her broadcasts over N. B. C. and Columbia networks as the "Voice of Wisdom" appears in person on the stage of the Stevenson theatre daily this week.  
In keeping with the findings of Dr. Ryan at Duke university along the



lines of mental telepathy, Zulieka has been elected vice-president of the American Astrology Society due to her advanced findings. Her remarkable and astounding accomplishments in astrology and psychic readings have brought such results as to leave one amazed.  
Princess Zulieka will give a special performance for ladies only Friday morning only at 10:30 a. m., answers questions of personal and private nature which is impossible to get at her regular performances. No gentlemen admitted to this performance.



Jimmy Dunn and Jean Rogers both featured in Universal's "Mysterious Crossing" at the Vance Theatre today and Thursday.

## North Carolina U. Campus Officers



Pictured above are the student leaders who are to head up the major campus offices of the men's organizations at the University of North Carolina next year. They were elected in the recent campus-wide elections in a poll in which a record number of fellow students participated. They are to be formally inducted into office at exercises to be held soon by the Student Body in Memorial Hall. These new officers, their home towns and their offices are as follows: Robert Magill, Shanghai, China, president of the Student Body; Reuben Graham, Charlotte, vice-president of the Student Body; Mac Smith, Rowland, editor of the Daily Tar Heel; Joe Patterson, New Bern, president of the Senior Class; Scott Hunter, Hendersonville, president of the Y. M. C. A.; Andy Bershak, Clarion, Pa., president of the Athletic Association; William P. Hudson, Chapel Hill, editor of the Carolina Magazine; David Thorp, Fries, Va., editor of the Yackety Yack; Hayden Clement, Salisbury, editor of the Buccaneer; and Glenn Davis, Dahlgren, Va., head cheerleader and junior representative to the Publications Union Board.

## THERE'S NEW TREND IN MYSTERY FILMS

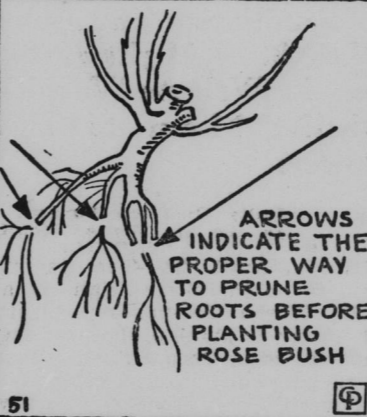
The new trend in mystery screen plays is toward lightness. People like to be intrigued, but the day of wanting to have horror run chills up and down their spines seem to be over. In keeping with this new preference, Universal has produced a murder mystery with comedy relief to brighten the story.

The film is "Mysterious Crossing," now at the Vance theatre, featuring Jimmy Dunn and Andy Devine, for two days.

Another new development in mystery plays is embodied in "Mysterious Crossing." It is the matter of doing away with obscure and hidden clues. In this new type of mystery story, the audience is given access to the clues as quickly as the leading character gets them. People quick in their deductions can announce the guilty man as soon as Dunn does.

## Today's Garden-Graph

By DEAN HALLIDAY  
Released by Central Press Association



Root pruning of roses THE ROOTS, as well as the tops of rose bushes, require pruning at planting time. After pruning the tops of a rose bush before planting, check the roots. It is much better to trim off extra long roots than to coil them around in the planting hole.

This Garden-Graph shows how to trim the roots of a rose bush. Make the cut with a sharp knife, as shears tend to crush the roots. One of the objects of root pruning of roses is to stimulate rapid growth of a feeding root system. A callus will form at each cut from which fibrous feeder roots will grow.

### Wins in 5-4



In another 5-4 decision, the U. S. supreme court held unconstitutional the Georgia insurrection law of 1866 as applied to Angelo Herndon, young Negro labor organizer, who was sent to prison for 18 to 20 years, charged with possessing 'Communist literature'.

## Bleeding Striker Leaves Stockton Riot Scene



This bleeding strike picket is shown being helped from the scene of serious riots at Stockton, Cal., after a clash in which pickets attempted to stop a load of spinach from entering a local cannery plant. Baseball bats and stones were used by the strikers as they stormed the truck guarded by deputies who replied with tear-gas bombs. Employers threaten to opening their canneries in face of union opposition following the break-down in negotiations. (Central Press)

## Asks \$60,000 for Girl's Eye



Mrs. Ruth Shaw and her daughter Andrea, are shown in New York City court, where the mother is suing for \$50,000 for the loss of her daughter's eye and \$10,000 additional for medical expenses. The girl tripped while skating in front of her home in 1934 and struck a picket fence enclosing a small lawn. One of the pickets pierced her eye.

## Minister to Bolivia



Robert G. Caldwell New U. S. minister to Bolivia. Robert G. Caldwell, was born in Bogota, Colombia, S. A., of American parents and is a graduate of Wooster, O., college. Caldwell, at present minister to Portugal, is well known as an educator and author.

DON'T WORRY 5:15 - THOSE MARKS ARE OFF WITH A SWISH!

The amazingly washable Wall Finish

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Semi-Lustre

Perfect for kitchens, bathrooms, stairways, nurseries, recreation rooms, woodwork radiators. Whisk away finger smudges, dirt grease spots easily and quickly with soap and water. S W Semi Lustre comes in 12 beautiful tints. See them today.

Special! this week

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS FLOOR WAX 1 pint S-W Flo Wax and Long-Handle Applicator. SELF POLISHING... 79c HIGH LUSTER... 79c

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS Furniture Polish Restores luster. Leaves no oily film to finger print. 6-OZ. BOTTLE 19c S-W POLISH OL 19c

Vance Coal & Lumber Co. Phone 30. The Number for Lumber

PAINT HEADQUARTERS

4%-Penalty-4% Will Be Added to all 1936 CITY TAXES Not Paid on or Before Saturday, May 1 Pay up now and avoid the extra added penalty.

S. B. BURWELL, City Clerk