

DEATH AT THE MANOR

BY M. E. CORNE

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CHAPTER FORTY-SIX

JOHN HENRY HERMAN, the electrician, squirmed uncomfortably on the hard witness chair.

"The afternoon I got a call from the housekeeper at the Manor to come out and fix the three electric driers what was out of order—"

Didmore interrupted: "What time did you receive this first call?"

"Around two o'clock."

"Very well. Continue."

"Well, as I was saying, it was Sunday, and I don't usually do no work on Sunday, but the housekeeper said they had to have them driers in shape for Monday morning. And so I said I'd drive out and fix 'em. Well, before I could get started I got another call saying I wasn't to come—"

"One moment! Was this second call also from Mrs. Greely?"

John Henry wagged his head: "It was a woman's voice calling. Naturally, I thought it was her again."

"I see," Didmore nodded. "That's all."

He called Mrs. Greely to the stand.

"Now, Mrs. Greely," he said, "you have heard the evidence supplied by Mr. Herman. Do you agree to it?"

"No," returned the housekeeper flatly. "I do not. I made the first call. I know nothing whatever about the second one."

"You did not call Mr. Herman and cancel the arrangement you had previously made with him?"

"I did not."

"And you do not know who made this second call?"

"I do not."

"Is it possible that someone in the house overheard you making the first call?"

"It is possible," she admitted.

"The call was put through from the kitchen. The phone there is quite public."

"Who was present in the kitchen at the time of the call?"

"The butler, Mr. Hawkins, and Henrietta, Mrs. Horace's maid."

"I see," said Didmore again, and was about to dismiss the witness when McIntyre beckoned to him. For some seconds they consulted in low whispers. Didmore then returned to the housekeeper.

"Where?" he asked, "is the main or key telephone located at the Manor?"

Mrs. Greely appeared surprised.

"In the kitchen."

"How many branch phones does the estate boast?"

"There is a phone in each room."

"And these phones are all connected?"

"Connected?"

Didmore elaborated. "Is it possible for a person phoning in the kitchen to be overheard in the library or in one of the bedrooms?"

"Oh, yes."

"Are these phones, aside from the key phone, outside lines?"

"Yes."

"How do they operate?"

Mrs. Greely explained: "When a call comes through to the Manor, it is taken in the kitchen. Hawkins or myself transfer it to the proper



In his outstretched hand he held a thin blue packet.

party. Outgoing calls may be made on any of the phones."

"Thank you very much," The housekeeper returned to the witness bench.

This concluded the formalities. The jury, as was expected, pronounced a verdict of willful murder in the case of Mrs. Horace T. Witherspoon, Sr.; in the case of Mrs. Horace T. Witherspoon, Jr., and in the case of Eliza Williams. The murderer was designated as a person or persons unknown.

"And now," said Mac, when the courtroom had cleared, "and now to business!" He sounded eager and excited. I wondered what rabbit he would pull from his hat this time. But he made no further comment. He streaked from the room. The last I saw of him he was hurrying down the corridor in Mrs. Greely's wake. I saw no more of him until evening.

It began to rain that night around seven o'clock. The rain beat in torrents against my windowpanes. I dined alone and tried to shut out the sound of the ceaseless, relentless downpour.

Ordinarily I am fond of rain. There is something soothing in it. This night, however, the steady drip, drip, drip of the drops to the ground oppressed and unnerved me. Its very steadfastness chilled me.

It was an all-night rain. It would go on and on—like the murders and the mystery and—I forced myself to drink a second cup of coffee. I must get hold of myself. Madness lay in such thoughts. I lit a cigaret and leafed through the pages of a magazine, but the stories failed to hold my attention.

The house was terrifyingly silent for that early hour. Below din-

Re-Opens Fight



Oberlin M. Carter

Although 82, Oberlin M. Carter, snapped in Chicago, opens new fight to clear his name of stain placed thereon by court-martial that cashiered him from army in 1898 and sentenced him to five years in prison. Carter, a captain in the engineer corps, was accused of conspiracy in awarding contracts in harbor improvement at Savannah, Ga.

To Aid Refugees



Robert W. Balderston

Robert W. Balderston, of Chicago, succeeds Robert Yarnall as member of commission returned to Philadelphia from Germany where they were sent by the American Friends Service Committee to make a study of the need for relief among Jews and non-Aryans.

Two Children Drown Under Ice, Third Saved



Eager to watch a fisherman on the ice in Jamaica Bay, New York, Emma Gray, 10; her brother George, 8, and Alma White, 8, started to walk toward him. One hundred yards off shore the ice gave way. Emma and George were drowned. The fisherman succeeded in rescuing Alma. Wilfred Gray wrings his cap in anguish (left) as first aid crew works in vain over his son, and a priest administers last rites of church. Alma (top left), recovering at home, smiles after her narrow escape.

Co-ed at 75



Mrs. Isabelle B. Haggett

Completing a course in literature at George Washington University in the federal capital, Mrs. Isabelle B. Haggett, 75-year-old coed, plans to travel and write. She started her school work after retirement five years ago from the federal service, where she had been a teacher and clerk in the office of Indian affairs for 33 years.

Wife Preservers



To put new elastic in clothes, one woman says she fastens the new elastic to the old, and then draws the new in as she draws the old out.

Empire State Still Tops in Tax-Paying and Height

Empire State Building ... retains its rank
By Central Press



NEW YORK—The Empire State Building—102 stories high—retains its rating this year as the highest tax-paying single privately-owned building in America. And no structure to surpass it in height is looked for in New York for some years to come.

Tentative New York tax assessment figures for 1939-40 place the valuation of Empire State at \$27,750,000, unchanged from the previous year.

But Rockefeller Center buildings, as a group, are in first place with \$65,100,000. This will be considerably higher next year, as four more buildings will go into the assessment when completed.

Then there are the Metropolitan Life Insurance home office buildings at Madison Square. They are down on the 1939 valuation list for \$25,250,000. But an additional \$13,000,000 building will be completed next year.

Among the hotels, the Waldorf takes top rank with \$22,000,000—down \$500,000 from last year. Next ranking hotel in valuation is the Commodore—at \$13,500,000.

The Chrysler building still holds second place in height in New York (and America)—77 stories, 1,046 feet high. The Empire State is 1,248 feet high. Third tallest building is 60 Wall Tower, which is not in Wall Street, but Pine Street—850 feet.

Townsend Pushes Plan in Capital



Dr. Francis E. Townsend Rep. Joseph Hendricks

Dr. Francis E. Townsend, author of the old age pension plan which bears his name is seen, left, with Representative Joseph Hendricks of Florida, who recently introduced a Townsend pension plan bill. Dr. Townsend came to Washington to answer questions of the House ways and means committee concerning the bill. (Central Press)



Dick Powell in "Going Places"—Stevenson Thursday and Friday

NOAH NUMSKULL

COACH THIS IS NO TIME TO HUDDLE!

2-14

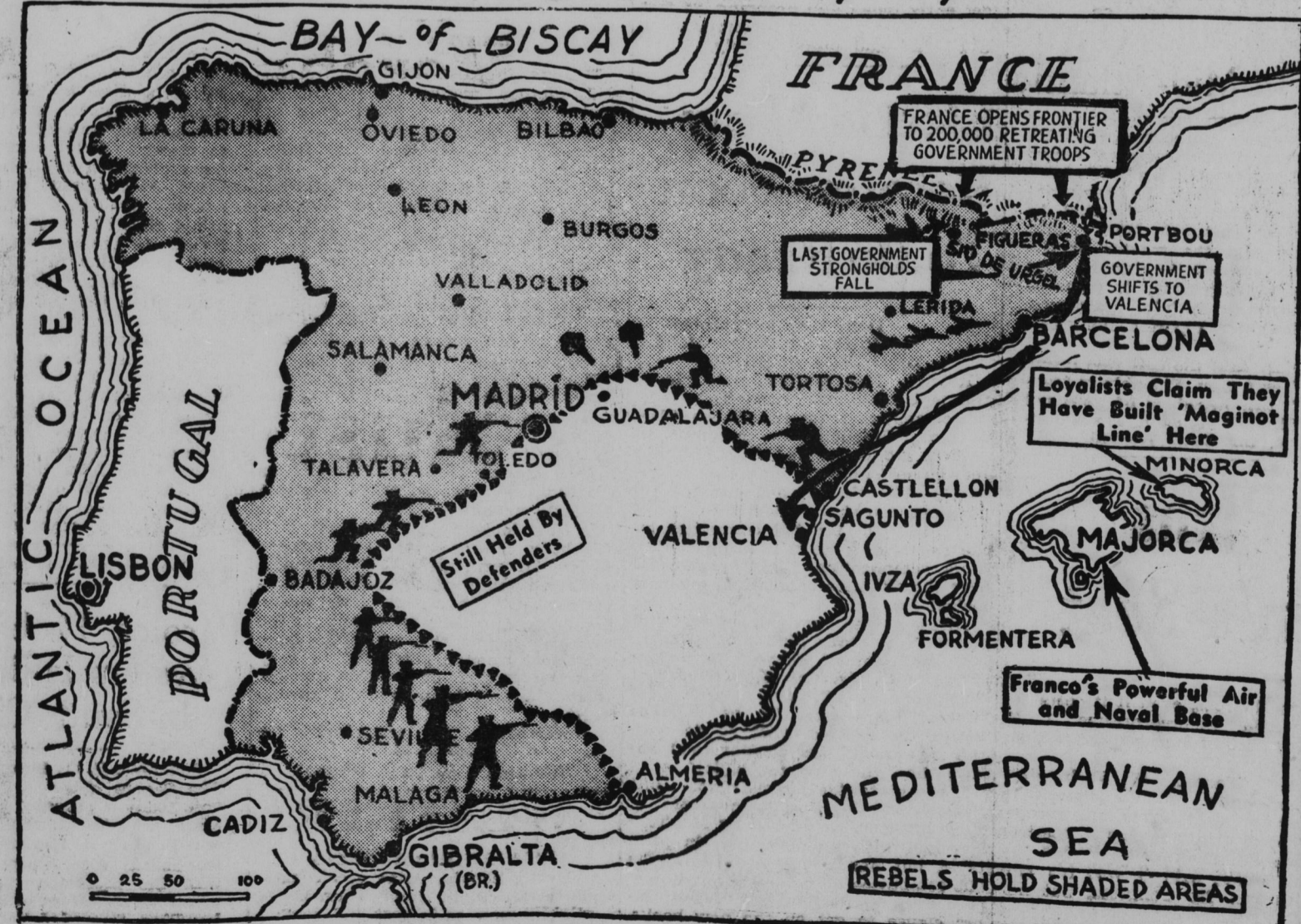
DEAR NOAH=DO WEEVILS PLAY FOOTBALL IN THE COTTON BOLL? M.D. LANEY MONROE, N.C.

DEAR NOAH=IF YOU SAT ON A TACK WOULD YOU BE GETTING THE POINT? H.V. NORWOOD WAXHAW, N.C.

DEAR NOAH=IF EYEING MAID YOU EYE-WINDED, WOULD YOU LASH IT IF EYELET? T.K. BYRD CHESTER, S.C.

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Only a Small Part of Spain Held by Loyalist Defenders



This explanatory map shows the Spanish situation at a glance. Great Britain and France have renewed efforts for mediation.

NOAH NUMSKULL

YOU TOOTHLESS SCAMP, I SEE YOU'RE NOT SET FOR FINE WORK!

2-17

DEAR NOAH=IF A BROOM CAN SWEEP WHY CAN'T THE SAW-DUST? STEPHEN MUSANTE ANSONIA, CONN.

DEAR NOAH=DO YOU PUT IODINE ON A CUT-IN SALARY? MARGARET TURNER MOVESVILLE, N.C.

DEAR NOAH=IF A CLERK GAVE SHORT MEASURE, HOW MANY DID THE YARDSTICK? MAY S. HANSON GOODELL, IOWA.

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NOAH NUMSKULL

THIS IS MY BRIEF CASE SUIT!

2-18

DEAR NOAH= WOULD YOU CALL A POLICE MAN'S UNIFORM A LAW SUIT? NUMB-FAN MANKATO, MINN.

DEAR NOAH=HOW CAN PEOPLE GET HOME-SICK WHEN THEY ARE AWAY FROM HOME? CALVIN PLONK KING'S MT., N.C.

DEAR NOAH= DID YOU EVER HAVE A HONEY-COMB YOUR HAIR? MAY SMITH HANSON GOODELL, IOWA.

MAIL IDEAS CARE THE PAPER.

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Water's Up!

This good-humored rescuer refuses to let the river dampen his enthusiasm as he carries a youngster from flooded area in Cincinnati to higher ground. Flood at Cincinnati was not rated as serious this year. West Virginia and Kentucky tributaries of the Ohio River caused most serious damage.