

MURDERER'S REWARD

(A Short Story) BY RICHARD HILL WILKINSON

Wally Donato carefully wiped off the automatic and placed it in the hand of the dead man. The dead man's name was Lynn Ogden. He had been Wally's business partner.

So far the thing had gone off with no deviation from the manner in which Wally had planned. The greatest possibility of a slip-up had been overcome by Lynn's wholly unsuspecting attitude.

Ten minutes ago Wally had stepped into Lynn's office and found his partner finishing last details before going home. Lynn had looked up mildly curious had nodded, and bent over his desk once more. And Wally had calmly drawn the automatic from his pocket, aimed it at Lynn's temple and as calmly pulled the trigger.

He listened for a moment to make sure no one had heard the shot and was coming to investigate, even though he knew the office force had long since departed.

Presently he removed a handkerchief from his pocket and wiped his automatic with careful deliberation. He had to steel himself to the business of inserting the weapon between Lynn's fingers.

"Suicide!" he muttered. "There isn't a possibility of their advancing another theory, and even if they do they won't know whom to suspect."

Wally's attitude was almost jaunty as he walked over to the safe and spun the dials.

The heavy door swung back and Wally drew up a chair to make himself comfortable while sorting out the papers he wanted. He found them without the least difficulty. Securities worth thousands! And no one save Wally and Lynn was aware of their presence here. Their removal, therefore, could never arouse suspicion.

He restored other things in the safe to their proper order, first wiping each article carefully to remove any fingerprints.

Presently he stood up, a satisfied look on his face and returned the chair to its former position. He glanced at his watch. Five-thirty exactly. The whole busi-

ness had taken less than 30 minutes. And there had not been a single hitch, not one disturbing factor. The task had been completed in exact detail as he had planned.

He turned and looked about the room. There was plenty of time. Lynn's body would not be discovered until the next morning. It was best now to make sure that no possible clue remained, and with this mind he made a slow, scrutinizing tour of the room.

Poor Lynn! What an utter, stupid fool the man was! Well, that's what you get for trusting every Tom, Dick and Harry who comes along. A shrewder man — a man with Wally's brains, for example — would have foreseen this possibility and guarded against it.

The picture of Lynn lying there, face down on the desk, was certainly realistic enough. Wally told himself. No professional could have done a better job. The bullet had entered his right temple and the wound was surrounded by powder burns — a sure-fire factor in establishing a suicide theory. The automatic was clutched in the dead man's hand with the forefinger wrapped around the trigger. It couldn't look more genuine.

Wally smiled to himself again and turned away. It was then that a most surprising thing happened. To an observer it would have appeared weird, miraculous, uncanny.

Wally had taken one step toward the door, when the automatic, resting in the lifeless fingers of Lynn Ogden, exploded. There was a roar, a burst of flame. Lynn's hand jerked off the desk and the automatic went clattering to the floor.

The noise made by its fall was lost by a greater noise — that produced by the terrific impact of Wally Donato's heavy frame crashing against a chair to the floor, the sound of an agonized cry, a cry that presently died on his lips.

It was Inspector Joe Warren from police headquarters who explained the phenomenon. Warren spent several hours alone in the office after the discovery had

Warrensville News

Mr. and Mrs. Ransome Johnson, of Marion, Va., were guests of Mr. W. P. Shoaf and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Shoaf, Sunday, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Chester Race, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Shoaf and Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Johnson, while in Warrensville.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Campbell and family, visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy Walker Sunday.

Miss Mary Margaret Graybeal, of Fig, was the week end guest of Miss Sally Burkett.

Mr. Robert Moore, of Statesville, was a week end guest of Miss Mary Elizabeth Latham.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ashley and family, of Eckman, W. Va., are spending their vacation with Mr. Ashley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Ashley.

Miss Velma Perkins, who is employed at Winchester, Va., spent a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Perkins, this week.

Billie Dare Ashby is a patient in the hospital in Charlotte receiving post-polio treatment.

Helen Segraves visited Rebecca Ashley Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Eller and son visited relatives at Kannapolis Sunday.

J. M. Burkett had a very interesting and busy two days last week, trying to move a colony of honey bees who had set up operation between the walls of a neighbor's residence.

Although in residence only a short time, these industrious workers had manufactured a quantity of comb, which they were busily filling with honey, when they were interrupted. While objecting to being transferred from their chosen

abode, the move was accomplished with no "casualties" to the numerous observers. Mr. Burkett received only one light sting. It is supposed the bees are a swarm reported missing from A. M. Ashley's apiary.

Luther Ashley, who is employed in Maryland, is at home for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer Jones and family, of Elon College, who have been guests of Mrs. Denton Jones for several days, returned home Sunday.

Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner filled his regular appointment here Sunday.

Mrs. Bumgarner, who has been very ill is improving slowly at their home at Miller's Creek.

The Women's Division of Christian Service had the regular monthly meeting Monday evening at 8 o'clock with the president, Mrs. Walker, presiding.

The theme for the devotional service being "Peace to the Nations — Praise to the Lord," followed by a study of the charter and organization of the United Nations.

A talk on "The Security Council," was given by Mrs. Chester Race; "The Economical Social Council," was discussed by Mrs. T. R. Perkins, while "Other United Nations Bodies" was the topic for an informative talk given by Mrs. Roy Campbell.

"Obviously murder," he explained. But the murdered man shot the murderer before the latter could get away.

The reporters looked bewildered.

"Donato," Warren went on, "came in here, shot his partner and then placed the weapon in Ogden's hand to make it look like suicide. After that he removed certain papers from the safe, which were discovered on his person. This probably consumed 20 or 30 minutes, during which

rigor mortis set in in the dead man. Rigor mortis, you know, is a stiffening and contracting of the muscles. Unfortunately for Donato the muscles of the forefinger in Ogden's right hand which was wrapped about the trigger of the automatic, stiffened and contracted enough to discharge the weapon. Donato was in the path of the bullet. It is the case of which I am aware where the murdered man killed his murderer."

"The Green Promise" To Show During Farm Safety Week

Although the 4-H Clubs have some two million members throughout the country and five times that number of alumni, this organization has been ignored by Hollywood until the recent completion of "The Green Promise" which will show at the Parkway Theatre in West Jefferson on July 27, during National Farm Safety Week.

This picture which dramatizes the 4-H Club's activities has a plot that revolves around the character of a stubborn and suspicious old farmer who scorns "new-fangled ideas but who is eventually brought to see the error of his ways by his more progressive children and a patient county agent, J. V. Caudill, Jr., manager of the theatre, pointed out.

The General Federation of Women's Club said that there is

honesty and sincerity in this pastoral drama which deals particularly with the work of the 4-H clubs and their influence on young farm people. The moral and ethical values are high in this picture.

"The Green Promise," had its first showing to the 1600 young 4-H club prize winners at the organization's 27th annual banquet held in Chicago last November. In all there are 84,000 4-H clubs, whose membership is expected to increase to 3,000,000 within the next two or three years.

Marguerite Chapman, Walter Brennan, Robert Paige and Natalie Wood head the cast of this screen production dealing with rural youth changed the methods of a father, which were frozen in the pattern of old-fashioned and hit-or-miss ways.

Sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the 4-H Clubs purpose is to show farm boys and girls how to live a better and more useful life in the rural regions and how to apply scientific methods of farming.

Fish Fry Held By Legion Post 275

District Commander Louis Nelson, North Wilkesboro, addressed members of Legion Post 275 of the American Legion at

the fish fry meeting held at the Lansing high school gymnasium last Wednesday night.

He pointed out to the group facts on the proposed action of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion on increase in dues.

Following the fish fry and talk by Mr. Nelson, movies were shown to the group.

Commander Ray Blevins presided over the meeting with a large number of legionnaires and guests in attendance.

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This Week's DRIVE-IN Theatre Program

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY — Baxter, Holden, Tufts, Bendix in "Blaze of Noon"

SATURDAY Don Barry in "The Tulsa Kid"

SUNDAY George Brent and Virginia Mayo in "Out Of The Blue"

MONDAY AND TUESDAY Dane Clark - Geraldine Brooks "Embraceable You"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, FAMILY NIGHT, 50c FOR A CAR FULL



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Glue a paper plate to the bottom of your paint can. You will then have drip protection without a lot of messy newspapers, and the can will be easy to move. If you taper one end of a broom handle and drive it into the hollow handle of a garden trowel, you will have a long-

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