SMART

By RICHARD HILL WILKINSON

It looked to me like a pretty and find the body. hopeless case and I said so.

detective," Moriarty said. to the marks made by a tire Brimstone tires.'

in the soft earth. ing at it for a couple of hours. "See that tree. The car scraped "So've you and nine other cop- it and rubbed some of the paint pers. So what? Jack Newbury is off." still dead and the killer's still at to catch him."

stone tire," said Moriarty. "We stone tires were painted blue." know that whoever killed New- The next morning the murder

"Well, we know the automo-Sure," I said. "I've been look- bile was blue," said Moriarty.

"My, my," I said sarcastically. large and you're stuck as to how "Blue's such an unusual color I'll bet not more than 5,000 of "That's the imprint of a Brim those 10,000 cars using Brim-

bury brought him here in an au- was spread all over the front tomobile and left him, figuring pages of the papers. I read the the body wouldn't be discovered account and discovered that Mofor weeks. He figured wrong. He riarty had been holding out on was a big one and, coming unexforgot that the hunting season me. The son - of - a - gun! He was open and that a couple of had checked up and discovered sportsmen might happen along that there was only one parti-

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Guests at Healing Springs Hotel last week include the following: Rev. and Mrs. L. D. Ussery, "Smart," I said. "Where do we Mrs. Paul Osberne, Mr. arel Mrs. Mouth of Wilson, Va.; Mr. and "That's because you ain't a go from here? I don't imagine Issac Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. J. there's more than 10,000 auto- G. Greene and son, Robert, "Thank the Lord!" I told him. mobiles in the city of Hayden Gwyn Gambill, and Mr. and Mrs. "See that!" he said, pointing and surrounding country using M. F. Rhodes, all of North Wilkesboro; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Pope, Claremont; Mr. and Mrs. Doyt Owens, Statesville.

Marvin Sasser, Frances Sasser, Clinton Sasser and P. D. Watts, Indian Trail; Mr. and Mrs. Ira T. Johnston and Mr. and Mrs.

cular year that the Brimstone people made tires bearing the pattern that was found in the imprint near the body. And that year the Chalmers automobile company had equipped all their pectedly as it did, the Brimstone people weren't able to meet the demands of retail dealers. Hence, in that particular year only Chalmers cars had Brimstone tires, and most all of that model were

It was easy, of course, to find out all the blue Chalmers of that year that were registered in and around Hayden. It narrowed the list of possible suspects down

Even so, the next time I saw Moriarty I snorted at him. "You've got a fat chance of collecting this guy," I said. "Suppose he came from out of town? which is likely. Suppose he came from Detroit or some place like that? How many blue Chalmers of that year do you think are registered in Detroit? Oh, my! Or suppose he borrowed the car or stole it or something?"

"We've arready got the guy," he said.

We went into the inspector's office. The inspector was there and two other coppers that I knew fairly well. We sat down and waited and pretty soon a couple of plain-clothes guys came in bringing a big husky, good looking chap with them. The husky was mad and indignant. He yellet a lot about this being an outrage and that sort of thing, but you could see he wasn't quite sure of himself.

None of the coppers said a word. They just sat around and stared at him. Pretty soon the husky stopped yelling and looked from one face to the other. and you could see he was scared.

I felt sorry for him. He asked in a quiet voice what they'd brought him here for. and the inspector said for the murder of Jack Newbury, and opened up his desk drawer and took out a hammer and laid it on his desk.

"This was the hammer that killed Newbury," he said. "We found it in the tool-kit of your car. Your fingerprints are on it."

The husky stared at the hammer a minute and then leaped out of his chair with a yell and began running wildly for the

"We figured he'd break like that," Moriarty told me later. "You have to try different systems on different guys. This one was easy."

"Smart, aren't you?" I said. 'Now tell me how you did it?" "Why, it was easy," said Moriarty. It was that Brimstone tire mark. We simply gave out the story that the Brimstone people only made tires with that pattern for a particular year and that Chalmers automobiles of that year were equipped with them. Blue Chalmers. Then we

waited.' "Waited for what?" I said. You mean that story you gave out wasn't true?'

Moriarty shrugged. "I dunno. We gave it out anyway, and the papers printed it. Then we kept our eyes on all the paint shops around, and after awnile a guy with a blue Chalmers with Brimstone tires that fitted the pattern came in to have his car painted. And that's how we happened to pick up this jigger," he grinned.

"Smart, aren't you?" I snort-

"Yeah," said Moriary. And we both grinned.

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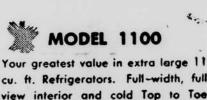
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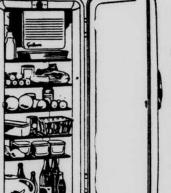
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