

# The Mandarin House Murders

By VAN WYCK MASON

## CHAPTER I

...to Captain Hugh North as if this was going to be an evening—something to do at the Cercle Sportif. At the prospect he expressed an indefinable resentment. He surveyed desolately a lounge which would be seething with that unbridled if febrile vivacity of the Cercle men as they were only as proper as they were and women were as dash-dash-dash.

...night was an off night. One could recognize a second flight diplomat, an important consular attaché, an army officer, hard-boiled adventurers and downright a-plenty. One could have a conversation on any topic of the day—be it the latest and the Tschun war to the proper of tea roses.

...and disputable would be the ladies in attendance; from the French Comtesse's sedate grande dame, of Mme. la Republique's copy in Shanghai, to a certain Russian princess, indeed, were not to be missed at all.

...Hugh North would be watching the Cercle's Italian and Spanish members as those few inexplicable persons who, like himself, were vital if non-exclusive to the stodgy conservatism of the Shanghai Club. Tonight, a light rain and a damp breeze from the upper bayonet had reduced the humidity to a minimum.

...my usual muddled luck, North remarked to the steward. "And I was wondering, sah? My not know what, sah?" Wong looked uneasy. "My ask bar mind, Wong—just tell me that wretched rain."

...glimmered with comprehension. "Yessah, Capten, my Cigar, sah?"

...I'll smoke my pipe—no subject tonight."

...settled back, his brain yet with tension. It had been half hour he'd spent standing in the Consul-General's private office and looking out on the



yellow, rain-lashed Whangpoo. Of course Mr. Reardon had exaggerated. Everything that was worth being discovered about steel had been known for over twenty years. And yet—what if steel could be manufactured strong as ever and sixty per cent lighter? He shut his eyes to avoid the necessity of talking to a sallow rice broker from Cochinchina who, puffy cheeked and green bronze with malaria, came by, parading his newest petite amie, a frightened looking Russian child. At the outside she would be seventeen, North estimated.

In a mild effort to escape complete boredom, North tried to divert himself in studying fat old Colonel Duplex and his faded blonde wife. Why did so many retired army officers linger in Shanghai? Perhaps like Captain Nicholas, late of the Indian army, he really didn't want to live there. There were a lot of people who, for obscure reasons, lingered on and on in the International Settlement,

and silver uniform. Again it struck North as odd that the French and other Continentals should cling so passionately to uniform of duty, while Anglo-Saxons shed them at the first opportunity.

"Thanks, Etienne," the American's rather Indian-like head tilted comfortably against his chair back, "another time I should be delighted. I'm tired and this rain depresses me."

"Ah, what a cow of a day." The Frenchman's shrug was inimitably Gallie. "I understand. It is like trying to be gay at a funeral. But if you feel inclined, meet me in the bar later. I have with a friend who just landed."

"From the Empress of Finland?"

"Yes. A most charming lady. She said the voyage was of the most miserable. A biento."

"See you later," smiled North and promptly relapsed into his state of troubled inactivity. One of the discoverers of the new process had decided to overlook ethics and to cash in on it. Well, it wasn't to be wondered at—Army officers were by no means overpaid.

Moodily twirling a liqueur glass between blunt sensitive fingers, North debated whether the Empress of Finland might not have numbered among her passengers the subject of his conversation with Consul-General Reardon—one Luther Adams, late major of the Chemical Warfare Corps? Possibly G-2 in Washington had been pointedly confident that the deserter would eventually turn up in Shanghai, prime haven for the world's rogues.

Dispassionately Hugh North tried to picture this Luther Adams. Thanks to a very meager description, his imagination would have a free rein for another five hours. By that time his cable to the D. C. I. division should remedy the deficiency.

Light-weight steel! Um. Its possibilities were limitless—staggering. No wonder the temptation to realize a fortune on it had been too much for Major Adams.

(To be Continued)

**Sutton-Messer Reunion Will Be Held July 4th**

Plans are underway for the Sutton-Messer reunion which will be held on July fourth on upper Cove Creek at the John Sutton estate.

R. P. Sutton, president of the organization, requests all connections of both families to make plans to attend.

It won't be long now till the girls who haven't anything to wear will call it a bathing suit.

## 16 Haywood County Students Attended Mars Hill College During Past Year

Sixteen students from Haywood attended Mars Hill College this year. Seniors included Judson Anderson, Clyde; Robert Beall, Canton; Francis Byers, Jr., Canton; Margaret Green, Clyde Route 1; Rose Marie Haynes, Clyde; Dolores Holtzclaw, Canton; Lucille Noland, Clyde Route 1; Joseph Way, Waynesville; William McCracken, Waynesville; and Larry Williams, of Canton.

The first year class included James Boone, Waynesville, Route 1; Edith Cole, of Canton; Audrey Francis, Clyde; James E. Hall, Jr., Canton; Nettie Payne, Canton, and Earl Williams.

Haywood students took an active part in all phases of campus activities. Robert Beall did outstanding work with the college band and orchestra, serving as student director of the latter. Francis Byers was Sunday school class president, society officer, and president of Haywood County club. Margaret Green was Sunday school class secretary, county club secretary, literary society secretary, member of the dramatics club and outstanding in young women's athletics activities. Rose Marie Haynes was society president, B. T. U. officer, and represented the college in several debate tournaments, as well as member of various young women's activities. Dolores Holtzclaw was active in society work, Sunday school class president, and member of young women's various activities.

Joe Way was Sunday school class officer, member of science club, an honor club for outstanding students of science, and participated in many campus activities.

William McCracken didn't enter until Christmas, coming from Brevard, but proved a diligent student, making the first honor roll. Larry Williams was very outstanding in society and forensic activities, serving as commencement president, a debater at the 50th anniversary of the society, judged best debater in his society and member of winning team at the annual commencement debate contest. As an intercollegiate debater he represented the college at all tournaments, receiving the award for the best junior college direct clash debater in the East. He was also a member of the I. R. C., an honor club for outstanding students of social science, appearing in several radio student opinion discussions over WWNC During the graduation exercises

## Directors Start Work On Livestock Show Program

he was awarded a two volume history by the Asheville chapter of the U. D. C., for the best paper on American History, also a twenty-five dollar Webster's unabridged dictionary for the best paper on American Government. Of the C. I. class Edith Cole is an outstanding member of the college choir, and an important society officer for next year. James Hall, an intercollegiate debater, was elected to succeed Larry Williams as society president for the first of next year.

**CHARLOTTE HAS OPEN SUNDAYS**

The Charlotte city council voted to allow Sunday motion pictures and outdoor sports. The ordinance was immediately effective. The action permits Charlotte's Piedmont league baseball team to play Sunday ball.

The entertainment, which may be given for profit, must be between 1 and 6 p. m., and after 9 p. m.

With a determination to make the second annual Haywood County Livestock and Home Arts Show bigger than anything of its kind in this part of the state, officers and directors of the organization meeting here Saturday afternoon completed definite plans for such a show.

A general discussion was made of the two-day program, which will be held the middle of September. A tentative budget was set up as a working guide, and committees instructed to begin work on the different phases of the work. Directors from every section of the county were present and discussed the program. All were enthusiastic of the plans.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ORGANIZE**

A commission, appointed by Asheville Presbytery for the purpose, met recently in the community house in Sylva and organized a Sylva Presbyterian church.

# WARNING

Persons operating bicycles after dark on the streets of Hazelwood without a front and tail light will be subject to arrest and prosecution.

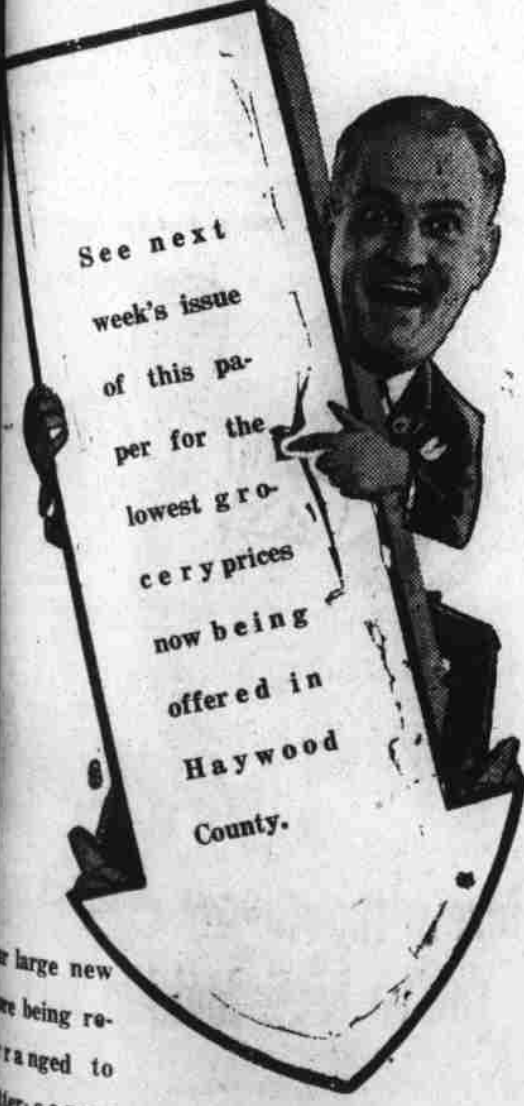
All persons operating motor vehicles with defective lights after dark will be arrested.

All person operating motor vehicles are hereby warned that strict enforcement of all traffic laws is now being made. Watch your speed, your parking and the traffic lights. Violators will be arrested.

**TOWN OF HAZELWOOD**  
JERRY ROGERS, Chief Of Police

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