

By Percival Christopher Wren Author of MYSTERIOUS WAYE BEAU GESTE BEAU IDEAL

SYNOPSIS: John Waye who had been best to tell Dr. Charters of the murder of the physician's old confederate in crime. "Spider" Schilz, relates how he plotted a conspiracy implicating another. Safe from the law, he Chartera's nursing home, where he has demanded asylum. Waye sees him. Dr. MacAdoo and Mr. James to report him to the police. Charters and MacAdoo know that Waye has learned of the promised payment to them of a large sum conditioned on certain developments in the illness of Marjorie Lauderdale, attractive patient. He knows too much generally to allow them, but there are difficulties in the way of his "rescue." In their presence, Waye maneuvers from Dr. Studley the opinion that it is a sane and healthy patient, whereupon Waye asks if Studley would be surprised should Waye be found dead in bed.

us, having said good-by to his Solicitor and Banker and Sir Bernard Mathieson, and Jimmy followed him. The Doctor gazed reflectively at the blotting-pad that he tapped with his pencil. "Well," he said, rising, "that's that, for the present," and with a complete change of voice and manner, added, "let us now resume our interrupted professional duties, my dear colleagues."

Closing the doors, Dr. MacAdoo returned and seated himself opposite to his chief. "Yes," he said softly "The poor girl is getting worse, Doctor?" Dr. Charters eyed his dear colleague with a probing and searching scrutiny, beneath which MacAdoo grew obviously uncomfortable. "Getting worse, Doctor?" he said again, suggestively. "No," replied Dr. Charters. "Better."

"Getting better?" "Steadily improving. Quickly getting better . . . and better." Dr. MacAdoo smiled, as one to whom a nod is as good as a wink. "All you want my help, eh, Doctor?" "One of my private, particular and peculiar 'drugs,' eh?" "No I think not, my dear Manuel, I fancy I can cure my patient myself, without any help whatsoever."

"In fact, under my treatment, she is making enormous strides." "Getting better?" asked Dr. MacAdoo in some bewilderment. "Fast. And she's going to get well." "Going to get well?" "Sure. So make no mistake about it."

"Why this change in your plans, Doctor? I mean in the medical history—the, er, the future medical history—of this case?" "Too risky," was the curt reply. "Simply because this man Waye knows as much about it as we do, and hasn't shown his hand. He goes to you with hints, and shows that he knows the price, but he hasn't come to me with any talk of a rake-off to himself. I don't like it, I tell you. He's got me guessing, and I'm worried," and again the Doctor sat in deep and anxious thought.

"Anyway," he continued, "this Lauderdale business is off, and the girl's going to get better." "And you're going to let 10,000 pounds slip?" "I am," replied the Doctor with decision. "And you're going to lose that half-share we joked about," he added. "Nothing whatever is going to happen to Marjorie Lauderdale."

"Not just yet. . . . Not while Mr. Remarkably Mysterious Waye is in the house," he continued—after both doors had closed behind the bewildered and distraught Dr. MacAdoo. His duties for the day accomplished, Mr. James, a scowl upon his brow, and the corners of his slit-like mouth down-drawn, slouched, without knocking, into Dr. MacAdoo's sitting-room, and without salutation, flung himself down in that gentleman's arm-chair.

Like most other people, Dr. MacAdoo was curiously uncomfortable when alone with Mr. James. "Something troubling you, Jimmy?" he inquired nervously, breaking the sour silence.

"Hub! There'll be something troubling the lot of us before long—and that's the police, unless the Old Man watches out. Why in blazes can't he tell this Waye guy where he gets off? Why doesn't he either do him in or kick him out?" "Well, he's given us plenty of good reasons for doing neither, hasn't he?" urged Dr. MacAdoo. "Yeah. Too many. . . . and it's not like him to take any guy's bluff. He's got me guessing."

"Seems to me the Boss is weakening," he added thoughtfully, as deftly he rolled a cigarette with his left hand, while his right hand remained behind his back, a favorite attitude with Mr. James—and one which always troubled Dr. MacAdoo, whose left hand liked to know what Mr. James's right hand was doing.

"I'll say the Boss is weakening, Jimmy," he agreed. "Don't you say I said so, but I've come to the conclusion that the Boss is doing two things. He's playing his own game and he's weakening too."

Seems of distrust. They've planted now within the Monastery, and tomorrow they'll sprout a couple of trawlers with Charters.

Sleuths Make Ally of Slayers Conscience In 6-Year Hunt for Oakland Nurse's Killer

EDITOR'S NOTE—Details of some of the most prominent mystery deaths of recent years have been gathered by Associated Press staff writers. This is one of the series.

By W. A. Wells

OAKLAND, Cal., Mar. 23.—(AP)—When scientific crime detection methods fail, "time" becomes the chief ally of the detective. On this belief District Attorney Earl Warren rests his chief hope of solving the mysterious murder of Bessie Ferguson.

Although it has been nearly six years since the comely San Francisco nurse's dissected body was found, scarcely a month has passed with bringing some new clue, false or otherwise, to keep alive official interest in the case.

In a legal sense the case is unique in many ways. Whereas many murder cases fall of successful court prosecution for lack of a "corpus delicti," Alameda county finds itself in possession of the "body of the crime" without official recognition that a murder has been committed.

District Attorney Warren declares it has been definitely established that the Ferguson woman was slain, her identity has been proved beyond dispute, and the insurance company has paid the policy on her life, yet no coroner's inquest has been held and no court or other official action ever has been taken to indicate officially that a crime has been committed.

Neither has there been a funeral. The body is retained by the authorities of Alameda county, and from time to time expenditures are authorized to pay the cost of preserving it.

When the auburn-haired nurse left her hotel in San Francisco on the August evening in 1925 when she was last seen alive, she told her mother she was going across the bay to Oakland to meet Sheriff Frank Barnett, Alameda county's veteran peace officer.

Subsequently the names of four other more or less prominent residents of bay cities were brought into the investigation.

The killing, almost in the back yards of two widely-known criminologists, Chief of Police August Vollmer of Berkeley and E. O. Heinrich, consulting criminologists—engaged perhaps the greatest array of police talent ever employed on a California case.

Vollmer's newly developed lie-detector was credited with eliciting additional pertinent information from questioned witnesses, but no arrests were ever made.

Heinrich, examining in his laboratory a tiny grain of earth found in the dead woman's hair, declared his opinion that the slaying and dismemberment may have taken place not where parts of her body were first found, northwest of Berkeley, but on Bay Farm Island, several miles southeast of Oakland. He based his conclusions on the character of the soil.

A few days after his announcement additional portions of the body were found in the estuary near Bay Farm Island.

Parts of the body having been found at widely-separated points in Contra Costa and Alameda counties the coroner of each county declined to assume there was sufficient evidence to show the killing had taken place in his jurisdiction. Both declined to hold inquests.

Piece by piece the body was reassembled, and custody of it was assumed by District Attorney Warren.

Several deputy sheriffs corroborated the declaration of Sheriff Barnett that on the night of her slaying he was in his private office.

The hunting lodge which Barnett frequently occupied and his home were raided and searched but no evidence against him was disclosed. At the next election he was defeated for office after many years of tenure.

"The atrocious nature of the crime," he says, "makes it morally certain that some one's conscience will eventually cause a breakdown and insanity or a confession result."

He believes he has sufficient evidence to prove the motive for the crime, but not to constitute evidence acceptable to a court as



Scarcely a month passes that does not yield some new clue, false or otherwise, to give a new turn to the six-year hunt of District Attorney Earl Warren (right) for the slayer of Bessie Ferguson (left) in Oakland, Cal. She left home one night in 1925, saying she was going to visit Sheriff Frank Barnett (below). She never arrived at his office. Parts of her dismembered body were later found in two counties.

to the identity of the perpetrator as between two or more suspects; that the parts of the body found near Bay Farm Island were placed there by an implicated person after Heinrich's announcement.

"It isn't personal influence or prominence that is standing in the way of a solution of this mystery," he declared. "It is just that the slayer has been sufficiently clever to outwit us. But time is our ally and some time, before I am out of office I hope, I am sure he will be caught."

Mrs. D. C. Broyles of Paint Rock, was in Ballinger Monday attending to business matters.

Mrs. Jennie Kirk, Miss Georgia Singletary, Mrs. Pearl Gustavus and Mrs. W. B. Halley left Monday for Brownwood to attend the Eastern Star school of instruction to be held in that city.



By C. E. Butterfield (Associated Press Radio Editor)

A significant statement on the status of television has just been issued.

It said: "Progress made in 1930 has brought television definitely nearer to commercial application." Contained in the annual report of the Radio Corporation of America, it was the first official utterance of this organization that might be interpreted as a forecast of the possibility that pictures by radio were much nearer than has been previously

indicated. However, the statement clearly states that "RCA will not attempt to market television equipment this year."

It also was explained that "while television has been demonstrated repeatedly on a laboratory basis, further research and development must precede the manufacture and sale to the public of television sets."

This statement, coupled with the fact that the National Broadcasting Company, an associated company of RCA, has been on the air for some time from one of its New York studios with experimental television transmissions, might be considered as an indication that important progress has been made and is being made in the laboratories.

What direction this progress is taking was not revealed, but the statement went on to say that television devices should "be built upon a principle that will eliminate rotary scanning disks, delicate hand controls, and other movable parts."

Such a reference could be taken to mean that the laboratory work is proceeding along lines by which it is hoped to replace the motor and scanning disk with a tube, such as the revamped oscil-

lograph tube which already has been made to reproduce television signals in the laboratory.

Another important extract from the statement said: "In order that the American public might not be misled by purely experimental equipment, and that a program comparable to sound broadcasting should be available in support of the new art, your corporation has devoted its efforts to intensive research into these problems, to the preparation of plant facilities and to the planning of studio arrangements whereby sight transmission could be installed as a separate service of nation-wide broadcasting."

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Baker spent the week-end on the 17,000-acre old Lomus ranch in Concho county. The ranch is now owned by Campbell brothers. Mr. Baker used to visit this ranch when Mr. Lomus owned it, but this is his first visit there in 30 years. He reports stock on the place in the best of condition.

County Judge Orland Sims, of Paint Rock, was in Ballinger Saturday afternoon attending to business.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jeanes, of Coleman, spent Sunday here visiting relatives and friends.



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Mrs. O. R. Ferguson, of San Angelo, was here Sunday visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garlington.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Guin spent Sunday in Winters and Abilene.

Mr. and Mrs. David Gregory, of Eldorado, visited relatives in Ballinger Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Gregory, of Stamford, spent Sunday in Ballinger as guests of relatives.

Mrs. R. T. Williams and Eleanor Williams, Eleanor Hancock, Dorothy Ruth Lynn and Bobbie Richards returned Saturday from a visit at Rising Star.

Member Taylor and George Cape spent the week-end in Brownwood.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Lynn spent Sunday in Coleman.

Marion Flynt and children, of Coleman, visited in Ballinger Sunday.

Dr. J. C. Hardy, president of Baylor College at Belton, was here Sunday and delivered the morning sermon to the Baptist congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Forman spent the week-end at Coleman, visiting Mr. Forman's parents.

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