

KIDNAP MURDER Case

by S.S. Van Dine

FINAL INSTALLMENT

"Poor Kaspar!" He was a weak chappie, and the price for his own murder was being wanted out of him without his realizing it. Through the gem collection of old Karl Kenting, of course. He was depicting that collection regularly at the subtle instigation of some one else, some one who took the gems and gave him practically nothing compared to what they were actually worth, hoping to turn them over at an outrageous profit. But sempiternous stones are not so easy to dispose of through illegitimate channels. A shady transaction of this nature would naturally require time, and the now-defunct henchmen who were waiting for settlement were becoming annoyed. Most of the really valuable stones, which I am sure the collection contained originally, were no longer there when I glanced over the cases the other morning. I am quite certain that the balas rubi I found in the poor fellow's dinner coat was brought back because the purchaser would not give him what he thought it was worth—Kaspar probably mistook the stone for a real ruby. There were blacko pals missing from the collection, also exhibits of jade, which Karl Kenting must undoubtedly have included in the collection, and yesterday morning the absence of a large piece of alexandrite was discovered.

"Fram Falloway suddenly leaped to his feet, glaring at Vance with the eyes of a maniac.

"I didn't do it!" he screamed hysterically. "I didn't have Kaspar killed! I tell you I didn't! I didn't! And you think I'd hurt Madeline! You have no right to accuse me!" He reached down quickly and picked up a small, but heavy, bronze statue of Antinous on the table beside him.

"Snitkin, standing just behind

"Fram Falloway's chair leaned over and neatly manacled the youth.

"Really, Mr. Falloway," Vance said, "you shouldn't handle heavy objects when you're in that frame of mind. Frightfully sorry. But just sit still and relax.

"As I was sayin', the disappearance of the stones from the collection was an indication of the identity of the murderer, for the simple reason that the hints of thugs and the underground disposal of these gems quite obviously suggested that the same type of person was involved in both endeavors to wit, both procedures implied a connection with underworld characters—fences and assassins. The two notes yesterday were highly enlightening! One of them was obviously concocted for effort; the other was quite genuine. But holdness—using a good technique—was, in this case, seen through."

"Referin' again to the various ransom notes, they were dictated by the plotter of Kaspar's murder by us, all but the one received by Mr. Feil yesterday—, and they were couched in such language that they could be shown to the authorities in order to sidetrack suspicion from the actual culprit and at the same time impress Mr. Kewton Kenting with the urgent necessity of raising the fifty thousand dollars. I had two statements as to the amount of money which Kaspar himself was demanding for his debts—one, an honest report of fifty thousand dollars; the other, no doubt a stupidly concocted tale of thirty thousand dollars—again obviously for the purpose of diverting suspicion from the person connected with the crime."

"The second note received by Mr. Feil, was not, as I have already intimated, one of the series written at the instructions of the guilty man

—it was a genuine document addressed to him, and the recipient felt that he not only could use it to have the ransom money paid over to him, but to disarm once more any suspicion that might be springing up in the minds of the authorities. It did not occur to him that the address, cryptically written in for his eyes alone, could be interpreted by another."

"He turned slowly to Feil again and met the other's smirk with a cold smile.

"When I suspected you, Mr. Feil," he said, "I sent you from the District Attorney's office Thursday before Mr. Markham and I came here, in order to verify my expectations that you would urge Mr. Kenting to request that all police interference be eliminated. This you did, and when I learned of it, after arriving here with Mr. Markham, I definitely objected to the proposal and counteracted your influence on Mr. Kenting so that you could not get the money safely that night. Seeing that part of your plan hopelessly failing, you cleverly changed your attitude and agreed to act for us—at my request through Sergeant Heath—as the person to place the money in the tree, and went through with the farce in order to prove that no connection existed between you and the demand for money. One of your henchmen had come to Central Park to pick up the package if everything went according to your pre-arranged schedule. Mr. Van Dine and I both saw the man. When he learned that you had not been successful with your plans he undoubtedly reported your failure, thereby throwing fear into your hirelings that they might not be paid—which accounts for their keeping Mrs. Kenting alive as an effective threat to hold over you till payment was forthcoming. Feil's expression did not change

"A very pretty theory, Mr. Vance he commented. "It shows remarkable ingenuity, but it entirely fails to take into consideration the fact that I myself was attacked by the machine gunner on the very night of Mrs. Kenting's disappearance. You have conveniently forgotten this little episode since it would knock the entire foundation from under your amusing little house of cards."

"No, Oh, no, Mr. Feil. Not conveniently forgot—conveniently remembered. Most vivid recollection don't you know. And you were jolly well frightened by the attack. Surely you don't believe your escape from an casualty was the result of a miracle. All quite simple, really. The gentlemen with the machine gun had no intention whatever of perforating you. His only object was to frighten you and warn you of exactly what to expect if you did not raise the money instantly to pay for the dastardly services rendered you. You were never safer in your life than when that machine gun was spattering away in your general direction."

"The smirk slowly faded from Feil's lips.

"Your theory, Mr. Vance, he said angrily, "no longer has even the merit of humor. And I wish you to know that I greatly resent your remarks."

"I don't regard that fact as a disadvantage on the least," Vance returned with a cold smile. "The fact is, Mr. Feil, you will be infinitely more resentful when I inform you that the money that certain public accounts are at work on your books and that the police are scrutinizing most carefully the contents of the bank vaults."

"For two seconds Feil looked at him with a searful frown. Then he took a swift backward step and, thrusting his hand into his pocket, drew forth a large, ugly looking automatic. Both Heath and Snitkin had been watching him steadily, and as Feil raised the machine, produced an automatic from his wound the black glint of his benighted arm. The movement of the two men were almost concurrent.

"But there was no need for Heath to fire his gun, for in that fraction of a second Feil raised his automatic to his own temple and pulled the trigger. The weapon fell from his hand immediately and his body slumped down against the edge of the desk and fell to the floor out of sight.

"Vance, apparently, was little moved by the tragedy. He looked after a deep sigh, he rose listlessly and stepped behind the desk. Vance bent down.

"Good, Markham—quite," he announced as he rose a moment or so later. "Considerate chapie—what has saved your ugly worry no end. Most gratifying."

"Snitkin unlocked the handcuffs on young Falloway.

"Sorry, Mr. Falloway," murmured Vance. "But you lost your self-control and became a bit annoying"—Feil's better?"

"The youth stammered "I'm all right." He was alert and apparently by his normal self now. "And Sis will be home in a couple of days."

CLEARFIELD NEWS

Talmage Spencer of Maysville spent the weekend with his wife and daughter here.

Jeff Smith and two young men by the name of Meridith from Lexington, Ky., spent Monday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Egan. Mr. Smith is Mrs. Egan's cousin.

Bro. Arthur Landolt was a visitor at Clearfield Sunday school Sunday afternoon.

Deloris Black of Thomas Addition spent Tuesday night with Fanny J. Egan.

Grand Jury Returns Its Final Report

(Continued From Page One)

Diligence in investigating the barrages of school houses in the County and report of their findings to the next Grand Jury.

That the officials of this court, in giving full cooperation to the farmers of this county, in enforcing any law, that would further promote the sheep industry in this county.

Respectfully submitted, this the 12th day of October, 1938.

J. W. Hogre, Foreman.

CORRECTIONS

In last week's News it was stated that John Rice was charged in Rowan Circuit Court with selling moonshine. This should have read, "selling beer to a minor." The News is glad to make this correction.

Squirrel Season Closed October 31st

The squirrel - hunting season which comes to a close on October 31st, was a very successful one, according to reports received from all sections of the state by the Division of Game and Fish.

The squirrel season, which opened a month earlier this year, formerly August first and now July 1st, seemed to be unsatisfactory to a majority of sportsmen.

With the closing of the squirrel season on October 31st, the only game left to hunt in season will be the dove. The dove season closes October 31st.

The duck season, which opens 15 days earlier this year, due to changes made by the federal government, starts on the 15th of October and closes November 28th.

The rabbit and quail which are hunted by more sportsmen than any other type of game in Kentucky, will be open for hunters on November 24th, through January 9th.

The open seasons being arranged in this manner gives a continuation of hunting on through the fall and winter months up to January 9th, when all seasons are closed.

Kentucky Trees

Of all the trees in Kentucky the aspen tree is the most accused. The aspen tree is runner-up, say the editors of the Federal Writers' Project, W. P. A.

A superstition handed down for more than a century has it that the elder was the tree upon which Judas' hands himself. Another belief that persists in rural sections that wood from an elder was used to make the cross upon which Christ was crucified.

Many of these simple country folk hold to the belief that it was the aspen tree from which wood was used for the cross of the unrepentant thief put to death with the Savior. That's the reason aspen leaves always quiver, according to the superstition.

Social Security Explained

Any worker for whom an old-age insurance account has been established may obtain from the Social Security Board a statement showing the amount of wages credited to his account for 1937 on the basis of reports made by employers according to a statement of M. E. Vaughan, of Lexington, who represents the Board in this district.

For the convenience of those who want such a statement, the Board has sent to all its field offices post cards which have printed on them the request for wage information. Space is left for the wage earner to write in his name, account number and address. The card should be mailed, either with a 1-cent stamp, or in a sealed envelope addressed to the Social Security Board, Candler Building, Baltimore, Maryland. A second form has also been made available at all Social Security offices for the use of anyone who believes that he earned wages that were not reported. On this form the wage earner should list each employer for whom he has worked, how long he was employed by each and the wages he received.

Mr. Vaughan said that he and all other office managers have been instructed to suggest to all individuals requesting wage information that they use the postcard form, since request made by letter cannot be handled by the Bureau of Old Age Insurance as rapidly as those made on the forms.

Request for statement of wages accounts already have been received from more than 12,000 wage earners, according to John J. Corson, Director of the Bureau of Old Age Insurance. The Bureau, he said, had replied to those making such requests and had received in return

almost no complaints that the statements of wages did not include all the wages they had been paid.

The only cases in which it was impossible to provide applicants with statements of wages received were those in which the individuals had been engaged in employment not covered by the Social Security

Merit System To Be Inaugurated

The Merit Examination Commission announced today that examinations will be given for all positions in the Unemployment, Compensation section, with exception of clerical and stenographic positions for which examinations have already been given. Approximately one-third of these are new positions as yet unfilled, and the remainder of the positions are filled by promotions. Incumbents, however must compete with other applicants and may retain their positions only if they receive a passing grade in the examination.

Examinations will be given for six grades of office machine operation; five grades of accountants and account clerks; six grades of positions in the handling of benefit claims; three grades of statistical positions; two grades of attorneys; an informational representative and three grades of managerial positions.

The Merit Examination Commission has appointed a Supervisor of Examination to conduct this examination program, whose office will be separate from the offices of the Commission. Official detailed announcement, it is planned, will be made during the week of September 13th. These announcements will be posted in State Employment offices, Post Offices, Libraries, Court Houses, etc.

Interested candidates should watch for the official announcement since applications will not be considered unless made as directed in the official announcement.

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VOTERS

Of Rowan County and Eastern Kentucky You Are Invited To Hear

SENATOR ALBEN W. BARKLEY

Discuss The Issues Of The Present CAMPAIGN

At The Courthouse

MOREHEAD, KY.

Wed. Oct. 19

Speaking Will Start Promptly At 2:30

GOVERNOR A. B. CHANDLER

Has Also Been Invited To Speak On This Occasion And His Acceptance Is Anticipated.

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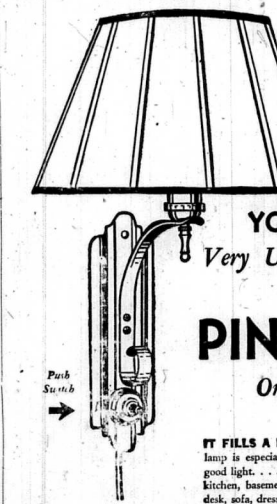
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IT IS SIMPLE TO PUT UP—Installing this lamp up for use is as easy as hanging a wall calendar. Just pin it up wherever you wish and plug cord into nearest electric outlet. No trouble to move from room to room.

IT ADDS BEAUTY AND CHARM—Artistic in design and color, this lamp will harmonize with your walls, draperies and furniture. Its glare-free and shadowless light lends any room a cheery, inviting atmosphere.

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