

DEAD RECKONING

By BRUCE HAMILTON

CHAPTER 40

ONE AFTERNOON about three weeks before Christmas, Tim was visited at his surgery by Bennett, the landlord of the Goose Quill. Bennett was a former Sussex cricket pro, a very decent sort of man who had been an irregular patient for years. He held a high opinion of Tim's professional skill, and was also linked with him by the fact that his daughter had spent three very happy years as a parlormaid at The Wilderness before leaving to get married.

Today, he was unable to point to anything particularly wrong with his teeth. "Just thought it was time you gave me a once-over, Mr. Kennedy," he said; but after Tim had poked about for a while and declared there was nothing requiring attention, he showed a disposition to linger.

"Your man Adams not about today?" he asked at last, with an assumed casualness.

"No, he's got one of his nervous headaches," replied Tim. "I told him to rest."

Adams had actually laid claim to a headache, and expressed his intention of going back to bed for a few hours. "I may be down later," he had said. "Meantime, you can carry on for yourself all right for a bit."

Today Tim had been obliged to let in his own patients, leaving his work to do it. Adams had not turned up.

"Well, I hope you don't blame me for his headaches, sir," said Bennett.

"I certainly don't, Mr. Bennett. Why should I?"

"You might argue that he picks 'em up at my place."

Tim picked up one of his instruments and began to clean it. "I know he goes there at nights, of course," he said after a pause. "He's putting away a lot, eh?"

"He certainly is, Mr. Kennedy. . . . Of course you understand, sir. We can't refuse to serve anyone with liquor within licensed hours so long as they don't actually make a disturbance. But you've always treated me very well, Mr. Kennedy, and I thought I ought to give you a word of warning."

"Has Adams been making a nuisance of himself, then?"

"Not exactly. It'd be easier to deal with if he had. But he's been talking wild."

Tim turned to face the man. "You'd better tell me what you're getting at, Bennett. It's no use making half-confidences. . . . Strictly between ourselves, of course."

"It's a bit difficult for me to tell you, sir. . . . Truth is, when he's got a skintful inside him, he begins to talk wild, as I say. . . . Disrespectful about you, sir, I mean."

"What has he been saying about me exactly?"

"Well, sir, he's called you an old humbug, and names like that."

"Anything else?"

"He's kind of hinted that he knows a thing or two about you. . . . Understand, sir, nobody takes him seriously when he starts talking like that. But, of course, it looks bad."

"I wish you'd be as precise as you can, Bennett. I want to get this quite clear."

Bennett fidgeted uneasily in the chair. "I don't like bearing tales, sir, and that's flat. But, to give you an example, last night, somebody had been saying you looked a bit . . . off color, since Mrs. Kennedy died, and how it must have affected you. . . . All quite nice and sympathetic, sir, nothing to give offense."

"Then Adams said, 'Broken up nothing,' or something like that. He wasn't sorry to get rid of his missus, take my word for it he wasn't. . . ."

"Someone told him to shut up, that was no way to talk. Then Adams got excited. He said, 'I could prove it to you if I wanted to, perhaps some day I will.' He was pretty far gone, you see, Mr. Kennedy. . . . It was just on closing time, anyway, so I put a stop to it, hustled 'em all out a bit quicker than usual. . . . I tell you, I'm not surprised he's got a headache this morning."

Tim went over to the wash-basin, and soaped his hands for a few moments in silence. "I'm glad you've come to me, Bennett," he said at last, without turning. "Is that all?"

"Yes, I can't say there's any more. Except general disrespectfulness, if ever your name's mentioned."

"I see. . . . You know, Bennett, Adams has been with me a long time. I dare say you've heard he saved my life in the war; that's not a thing one forgets easily. . . . And, of course, he was genuinely devoted to Mrs. Kennedy, there's no mistake about that."

"I won't conceal from you I've been very dissatisfied with his manner lately. He's been idle and uncouth in his behavior, he's talked wildly and rudely to me personally, just as you describe it. You see, he was very upset by my wife's death, and it's made him hostile to me; he seems to think I could have prevented it."

"But I feel a responsibility to him, and I want to give him every chance to get himself straight. He's a good fellow at heart, only a bit unbalanced. I'm inclined to bear with him a little longer, but I see I shall have to talk to him seriously, without mentioning what you've told me of course."



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"In the meantime, Bennett, I'd be very grateful if you'd try to check him as much as you can, when he's at your place, you know best how. . . . And if he starts any more of this wild talk, you might let me know."

Bennett got up. "I'll be very glad to, sir," he said.

After he had gone, Tim wiped the perspiration from his forehead. He had handled that pretty well, but the danger remained imminent. There were no more patients due for half an hour; he had time to think. He sat down before the bureau.

What was to be done? It was clear that the present state of affairs could not long continue without disaster. It could not be permitted to continue. . . . Now Adams had started talking, it was almost certain he would do so again. Allow that this was a drunken indiscretion he was probably repenting in sobriety this morning; the fact remained that a man who has once talked recklessly in drink will do so again.

And the next time he might be more explicit, he might let things out to an extent which could not be ignored, leading to police inquiries, and Adams having to tell the truth in self-defense.

Adams must be disarmed. But how? Tim was no longer in a position to make a bid outright for the letter, a bid likely to be sufficiently attractive to be taken up. He had been spending money free-

ly lately, first over Alma, then over the distraction by which he had sought to forget Alma. His balance at the bank had shrunk to near the £500 mark. Besides, he would have to move shortly, and the move was bound to involve him in considerable expense. Very few checks had come in lately.

There were certainly a few long-standing accounts, but they were mostly with patients whose credit was excellent; to press for immediate payment would be to reveal his own financial stringency, and still further prejudice his reputation in the town. Suppose, though, he were able to repeat his offer of £500. Was there a reasonable chance of Adams accepting? Probably not. He had refused it contemptuously a few weeks before, and he was unlikely to have changed his mind so soon.

What else remained? He would gladly have killed Adams, contrived another accident. But murder here did not meet the case. Its only effect would be to precipitate disaster, if Adams had spoken the truth.

If Adams had spoken the truth. . . . Tim struck his fist violently on the desk. Had Adams been lying to secure himself? He had the letter no doubt, but the story of confiding it to a solicitor, "to be opened after my death", after the manner of detective stories, was on the face of it improbable. Men of Adams' class did not go to solicitors.

Had he got the letter close at hand? Not on his person, that would be altogether too hazardous! nor at the surgery, but at The Wilderness, in his room, either locked in a trunk, or concealed in some well-concealed hiding place?

Tim got up. His mind was working again; the stimulus of immediate fear had revived his faculties. The more he thought of it the more certain he felt he was on the right track. And the thing could be put to the proof; it would not be hard to contrive a search of Adams' room. He could easily make arrangements so as to do so with the minimum risk of interference. The sooner the better, too.

On leaving the surgery, Tim looked in at the Royal cinema, and bought two tickets for the last performance that evening. Possibly they would be wasted; it was more than likely that after his excess of the night before Adams would elect to spend a quiet evening. The tickets were, of course, not for Adams, but for the cook and housemaid, whose bedrooms were close to that of Adams.

(To Be Continued)

Hero Is Witness



Dr. Frank L. Hardy

Hero of the recent attempted Midland, Mich., bank holdup, in which he shot and killed Bandit Jack Gracey and wounded Anthony Chebatoris, Dr. Frank L. Hardy, Midland dentist, is identifying Chebatoris, on trial at Bay City for the death of a truck driver shot during the holdup. Dr. Hardy fired from his second-story office window on the bandits a block away as they emerged from the bank.

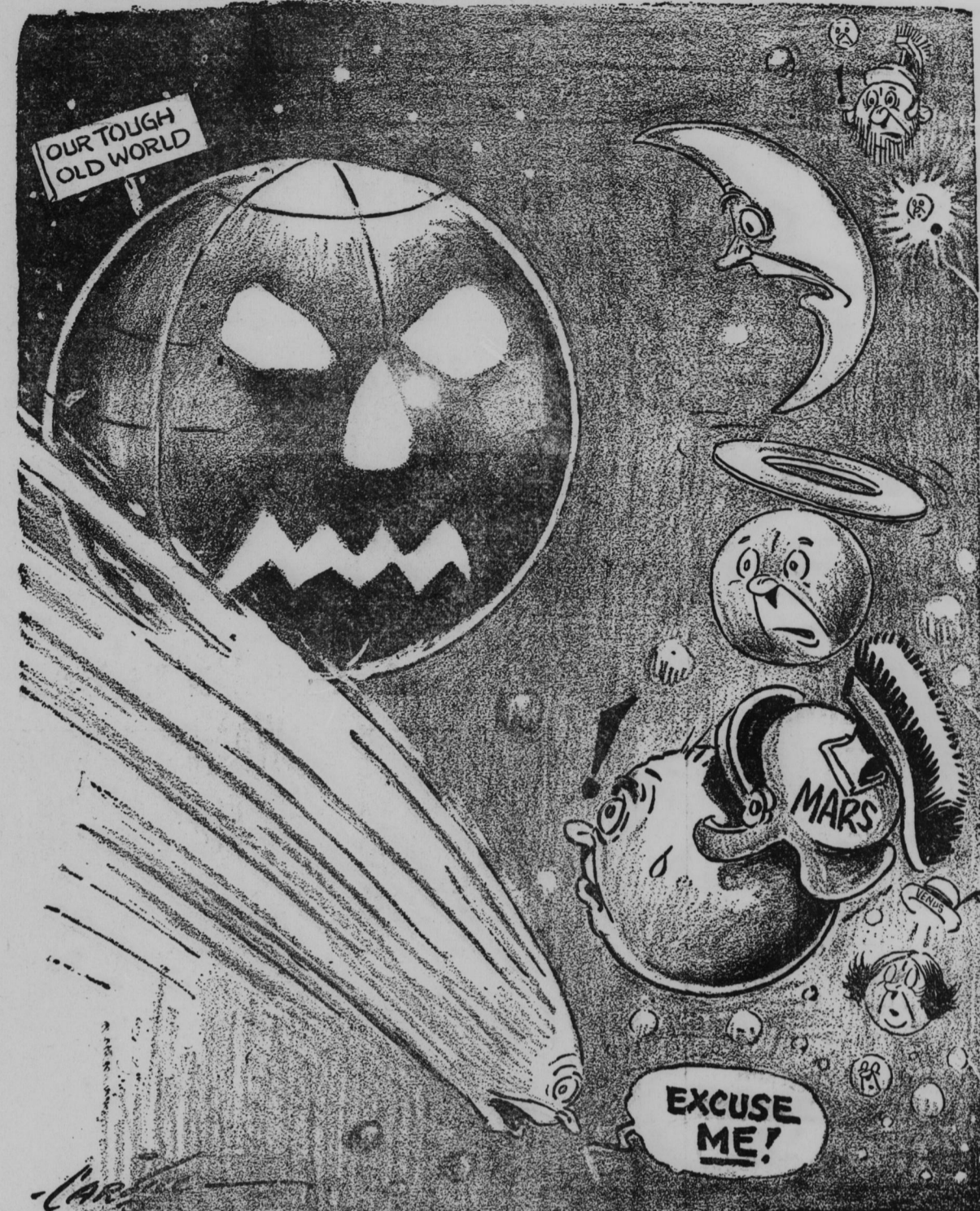
Wife Preservers



Too little sleep or irregularity in going to sleep often causes malnutrition in children. A warm bath before bedtime for cleansing and relaxation, is an inducement to sleep.

WONDER WHAT THE NEIGHBORS THINK?

(Re-Run by Request)

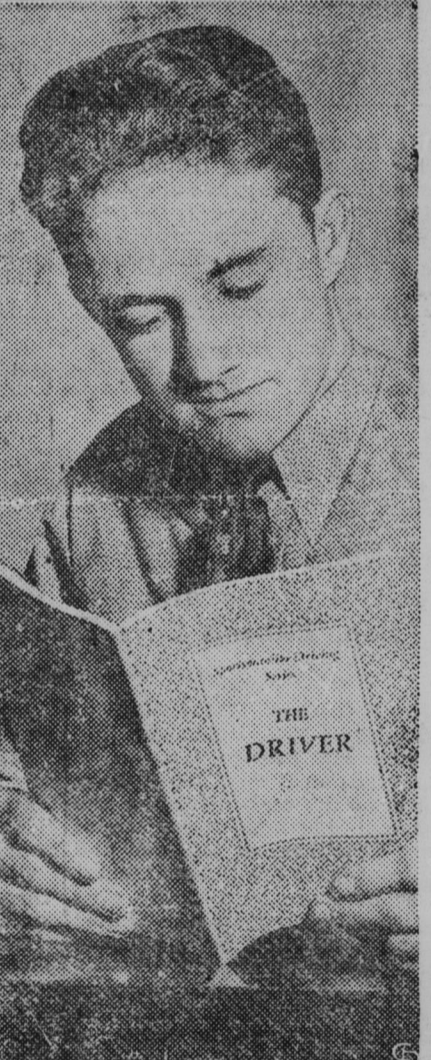


Safe Driving Made Compulsory Study in This City

Racine junior police members make complaints



Racine, Wis., is the first city in the United States to make safe driving a compulsory subject of study for junior and senior high school pupils. It thus hopes to set an example for the nation. Road rules, regulations, courtesies and methods of safe driving are taught. An added inducement is the formation of the Racine junior police, members of which are equipped with stars and who assist senior officers in regulating traffic. Duties of junior police deal particularly with children. There is also a bicycle court in which "cases" against youthful violators of bicycle ordinances are "tried."



Youth studies book on safe driving

THREE-WAY CONGRESSIONAL RACE STIRS NEW YORK



New York City is observing with interest a three-way fight in the "silk stocking" 17th congressional district for the seat left vacant through the death of Representative Theodore Peyer, Democrat. The candidates are Bruce Barton, advertising man and writer, Republican; Stanley Osserman, lawyer, choice of the old-line Democrats, and George T. Backer, real estate man and civic worker, named by the American Labor party. Barton is making his campaign as an opponent of New Deal laws, whereas Backer is standing on the platform of the American Labor party, which supports generally the Roosevelt program. Osserman gives his support to "the broad Democratic position", but is not stressing especially the Roosevelt program. The district, normally Republican, has of late been carried by Democrats. Mayor La Guardia, supported by a coalition of liberals for re-election, endorsed Barton, much to the displeasure of the American Labor party and other liberal forces.

DEALINGS SLOW IN THE STOCK MARKET

Apathetic Trend Slightly Backward; Transfers Are Around 7,000,000 Shares

New York, Oct. 30.—(AP)—An apathetic stock market today generally tilted backward, although a number of issues managed to contest the trend with modest advances. Dealings were comparatively slow from the start, with the ticker tape seldom pressed in its recording work. Transfers were in the neighborhood of 7,000,000 shares.

American Radiator	13 1/4
American Telephone	154 1/8
American Tob B	73 1/2
Anacosta	31 7/8
Atlantic Coast Line	28
Atlantic Refining	23 7/8
Bendix Aviation	13 7/8
Bethlehem Steel	55 1/2
Chrysler	9 5/8
Columbia Gas & Elec Co	9 1/8
Commercial	11
Continental Oil Co	11
Curtiss Wright	4
DuPont	125 3/4
Electric Pow & Light	13 1/8
General Electric	45 1/4
General Motors	43 1/4
Montgomery Ward & Co	44 3/8
Reynolds Tob B	47 1/2
Southern Railway	15 1/2
Standard Oil N J	53 1/2
U S Steel	63 1/2

FURTHER DECLINES SCORED BY COTTON

Market Is Only Slightly Weak on Close, However, Down but 7 to 8 Points

New York, Oct. 30.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened steady, down four to six points on lower cables and week-end hedge selling. March recovered from 8.09 to 8.04, and later was 8.03, with the list 3 to 4 points net lower around the end of the first hour.

Futures closed steady, 7 to 8 points lower. Spot quiet, middling 3.24.

	Open	Close
December	8.06	8.05
January	8.02	8.01
March	8.01	8.01
May	8.01	8.00
July	8.01	7.99
October	8.12	8.11

Huge Sum Likely to be Put In for Applying on Debt

(Continued from Page One.)

received \$218,780,088.74, the blind \$7,538,416.89, and dependent children, \$26,120,833.82. Chairman Copeland, Democrat, New York, of the Senate Commerce Committee, took preliminary steps toward investigation of what he called "communistic influences" at work on American ships.

Terms Far Apart for Two Nations to Get Together

(Continued from Page One.)

sion of fuel for airplanes, tanks and motorized equipment will enable China to continue her defense indefinitely. 6. A rigorous winter campaign would be disastrous to both China and Japan, but especially for Japan. 7. The slaughter at Shanghai, with the killing of foreign soldiers, increases the danger of international complications, which Japan seeks to avoid. 8. China, facing a power which controls the seas and is trained for modern methods of offenses, can afford to negotiate an honorable peace, and then build up a powerful nation capable of resisting aggression in the future.

NEW DEALERS SUPPORT BOTH SIDES



A peculiar situation has developed in the Cleveland mayoralty race. New Dealers are supporting both sides. Joseph B. Keenan, left, Democrat and assistant U. S. attorney general, is supporting Mayor Harold H. Burton, Republican, for re-election. Charles West, who ran for the Democratic nomination for governor in Ohio and who now is undersecretary of the interior and liaison man for President Roosevelt, is supporting John O. McWilliams, Democratic candidate for mayor. Burton has had a reform administration. Keenan, who is from Cleveland, was an "original Roosevelt man". The Roosevelt administration lets it be known, however, that it is maintaining a hands-off policy in spite of conflicting activities of Keenan and West.

No Evictions Today



Women chained to doorway To prevent intended evictions of two families at a New York apartment house, Mrs. Helen Fichtenbaum, left, and Mrs. Jennie Gold, members of the executive committee of the Brooklyn Rentpayers association, chained themselves to the main doorway. Police finally dislodged the chained pickets and took them to a police station.