was utterly nonplussed when Karen

walked in. She was observed by

my secretary and myself; by her

husband who was there on his own

account, probably to watch for

Shari Lynn. Sybil was there, too.

She and Karen met on the steps.

No doubt she was upset over the

rumor that Curt had been seen with

the Lynn woman, and in her mud-

dled way, wanted to see for her-

Hard bunches showed against Mc-

"The next afternoon, Curt Vallain-

Cale's jawline and his face looked

court was shot on your doorsteps.'

Miss Bigelow sat up straight,

"We-we saw the murderer?" she

"Yes," he answered slowly.

Think back. What was it we saw?"

"Why," she faltered, "there was

woman with red hair. Veronica!"

"No," he said. "Not Veronica.

That was Shari Lynn-in a red

She gave a cry of surprise.

"No. She did not shoot him. She

was not near enough. She saw who

did and tried to blackmail after-

"Then it must have been the oth-

"That was Sybil. She saw the

murder, but in her confusion did

not recognize the murderer-then.

Think, Miss Bigelow. When we

looked out of the window two or

three times in those few minutes

before the shot-think. Wasn't there

someone else there? Someone al-

He picked up the black kerchief

and dropped it in her lap. She

stared at it blankly for a long hor-

rible moment. Then she understood.

"Yes-yes," she said, finally.

"Awful-for Sybil. Oh, God!" She

buried her face in quivering hands.

In the silence that followed, Mc-

Cale heard a soft footfall outside

the door. Someone was tiptoeing

In a flash it came to McCale that

during the time he had spent in

preparing Miss Bigelow for the

coming arrest, his lengthy explana-

tion, his gift of gab-had given

someone the needed few minutes to

plan escape. For a moment he felt

panic, not knowing what to de

tanic effort of will.

blinding sleet.

"Got a light, buddy?"

A match flared suddenly and Mc-

Cale looked up over the flame to

stare into the dangerously narrowed

The man gave a growl, making a

"I wouldnt do that," McCale

said, his voice harsh. "This block

is lousy with police. You'd better

come quietly. Every one of them has a gun. They've got a bead on

you right now. They'll shoot-to

Then Bigelow said, "Not before I get you, they don't." He fumbled in

his coat and laughed hysterically.

In that instant, McCale's knee

came up with all the force he could

muster. Bigelow gave a sharp cry

of agony and doubled up on the side-

walk, tripping McCale as he went

down. It was not until that mo-

"Gosh!" McCale heard Rocky

say as he gripped the fallen man

under the shoulders, bringing him

upright. "The Navy! You sure this

"No less." McCale gingerly felt

the wounded arm on which he had

fallen. "Mr. Stephen Bigelow in the

uniform of Uncle Sam. He joined

the navy once-remember? He

must have saved his suit. Oh yes,

and his pistol. By the way, see if

his black kerchief is missing." It

Bigelow mounted the steps be-

tween Rocky and the officer. All

A squad car slid up to the curb-

stone as McCale turned to follow

the trio. He walked over to it and

levy stepped out. "Late as usual,

(TO BE CONTINUED)

"Welcome!" He bowed as Don-

opened the door with a flourish.

the fight was gone from him.

'I Should Have

is the guy, Duke?"

the fog.

Noticed That Sailor'

quick gesture with his right hand.

blue eyes of Stephen Bigelow.

quickly, furtively, toward the serv-

er one-the other woman-the one

ward, to her sorrow.'

in the raincoat."

ready waiting?"

ice stairs.

shaking hersolf out of her reverie.

relentless in the shadows.

400 Vets Off Rolls for Failure to Comply

Nearly 400 Nebraska World War II veterans taking training or educational courses under the GI bill of rights remain off the subsistence payrolls because they have failed to report their earnings as required by law, according to Ira M. DeWalt, a contact representative for the Veterans administration.

He explained that the wage reports were due November 5, that the subsistence allowance of 1,500 Nebraska veterans were originally suspended for failure to com-

"About 75 percent of those suspended," DeWalt said, "have been reinstated by reporting their incomes in response to followup laide Bigelow is not able to place it, letters sent out by the VA's regional office."

Mrs. Gerald Hansen, Mrs. Francis Kelly and Mrs. Kenneth Hemelstrand spent several days in Sioux City with Mrs. John Dalton, who is in St. Vincent's hospital there.

Miss Mary Pribil, a registered nurse at St. Vincent's hospital, Sioux City, arrived Monday to spend the holidays with her

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* Our earnest hope as we face the coming new year is that we may continue our pleasant relationship with our many patrons and that they, as well as all the folks in our community, enjoy the holiday and the days to follow in peace, contentment and good health.

××

DEAN'S BARBER SHOP

- O'NEILL -

vestigating the murder of Curt Vallain-

court, who was about to marry Veronica

Bigelow, heiress to thirty million dollars.

She is the principal suspect. McCale

the great fortune in the family through

a deal with Vallaincourt. Shari Lynn,

Vallaincourt's former wife, is shot to

death. Someone fires at McCale, wound-

ing him in the shoulder. McCale hur-

ries to the Bigelow mansion where Sybil,

finds a targe black silk handkerchief in

the trunk that puzzles him. Miss Ade-

CHAPTER XVI

He fingered it, feeling the coarse

pull of the silk. A signal seemed to

"We must go down immediately,"

he said. "Is everyone at home?

You said Christopher Storm was

where. Must you see them all?'

Ho strode ahead of her on the

third floor hall. He reached the door

of the second floor drawing room

before she was halfway down the

As he went in, Karen stopped

playing. She sat cold and austere

at the piano, letting her long fin-

gers rest quickly on the keyboard.

She turned toward him as he quick-

ly crossed the room to her side.

morning." He hurled the statement at her. "Why?"

A sullen smile turned up one cor-

ner of her mouth. She shrugged.

He waved a hand in exasperation.

"Very well. You don't talk. You

do know why the murderer did not

kill Sybil this afternoon." He was

aware that she drew away from

him. "That was a mistake, wasn't

She set her mouth in a hard line.

He looked his exasperation. He

shrugged then and turned to the

door, where stood a startled Miss

In the library once more, McCale

"Did you get those pictures? A

"Okay, coming through. A cou-

ple of football players; some guys

in a canoe; a petty officer; a jockey

jected-looking; an army lieutenant;

"Oh, I forgot to tell you. The

He dialed headquarters, asked for

"Donlevy, I'm at the Bigelows'.

ment. Then, so nearly after it that

the sound was almost simultaneous, came another soft click, as some-

one eise carefully cradled a receiv-

McCale and Miss Bigelow were

"This is the end, Miss Bigelow.

"Strange," he said. "Both you

It will be all over in a few minutes.

The police are on their way."

"Clues? Pointing to-?"

"Yes-a figure in the dark outside

out what she saw. A visit by Karen

to The Abbey Club the night be-

fore. A picture missing from the

collection of Shari Lynn's admirers.

A revolver in a family, where, to

not least, not at all the least-this."

He drew the black silk handker-

"But-but i still don't under-

He went on, softly, inexorably.

Bigelows. Make it snappy. This is

(no horse); a marine, kind of de-

it, not finishing the job?"

called his own number.

list? Read them off."

and whoops, an acrobat!"

"Where are you?"

Involved Motives

Are Unravelled

ruthless voice.

shook her head.

wrinkled

the kill."

Donlevy.

Okay. Hop on over here."

"Hullo, boss."

Bigelow.

"You drew \$800 at your bank this

They are all here some-

ing image go.

"Yes.

"Not yet."

second stairway.

Duke McCale, private detective, is in-

fair, even though he was married to that night. She surprised Vallain Shari Lynn at the time. He and court with her, and believe me, sur-Shari probably had some sort of prised was the word for Curt. He arrangement, for the only business Vallaincourt practiced was preying learns of a deep plot to keep control of on wealthy women."

> Miss Bigelow's chin came up. She seemed to be steeling herself for what she knew was to come.

"Vallaincourt probably intended Veronica's mother, has been slugged. She to marry Victoria until he found was searching in an old trunk. McCale that the Bigelow fortune was controlled by you, to be passed on to Veronica at her marriage." "To Veronica's husband, Mr. Mc-

"Yes, yes." He held up his hand. 'How he obtained that information is theory, but not illogical theory. In view of the nonchalance of his character at that time and the open, flow from the material in his hand too worldly outlook of both Victoria along his arm, into his brain. His and Stephen, it is not wrong to a'sthoughts clouded, then grew bright, sume that, in a moment of raillery, as they played hide-and-seek with they told him. Possibly they menthe infinitesimal shadow of an idea. tioned that he was barking up the He sat on his haunches, rooted to wrong tree-that while you allowed the spot, unwilling to let the flicker-Vicky and Stephen generous allowances, the real gold bags were Veronica's, with your and Sybil's ap-Suddenly, revelation poured over his mind like a searchlight. He proval, of course. Yes, the whole jumped up. Placing a firm hand on thing must have been hatched be-Miss Bigelow's arm, he guided her, fore Victoria and Stephen came surprised and bewildered, to the home to prepare the way, for in the meantime Vallaincourt had to di-



"You sure this is the guy, Duke?"

ing that when he got his hands on the money and had salted away a few million, he would renege and remarry Shari."

"How horrible." She shuddered. 'But Stephen and Victoria? What would they have gained?"

While McCale Talks "Uh uh. Just what I thought. The Murderer Escapes

"That's where the real Machiavellian touch came in. Victoria, no doubt, thought Curt would marry her eventually and that they would live on Veronica's money. You see, there were two women Curt fooled.'

"Of course. But to go back a bit. Can you get over here on the double Victoria brought Curt home as a quick? I've solved the Vallaincourtfriend she had run into in New Lynn business. Proof? Of course York. He wooed Veronica, who for-I've got proof. Yeah. In twenty got her childhood romance with minutes-sooner if you can. Good-Christopher Storm overnight in the excitement of the biological spell Vallaincourt was able to cast. Everything was going fine. The wedding over, a few months for Curt to manipulate the Bigelow money, and It came—as he held the receiver Victoria would have Curt. Stephen a moment too long at his ear. He would have he thought-Karen." heard Donlevy put down his instru-

Miss Bigelow closed her eyes in anguish. McCale continued in rush of words.

Even Christopher Storm was convinced of Vallaincourt's sincerity. He had met Curt that morning and in the library. He leaned against in a rush of boyish feeling had deed-the mantle and spoke in a soft, ed The Nest, the house he had built for Veronica and himself. That left the others out in the cold. Better now that Veronica should marry Storm than Vallaincourt, if he was going to turn his back on them. and I saw the murderer the after-Storm, at least, would see that they noon of Curt Vallaincourt's death. had their allowances, maybe some-Besides that, all the clues have thing more. But Curt, in his compointed in the same direction. I, at plete about-face, could not be releast, should have remembered the lied upon. He might cut them off complete picture of that afternoon." completely, in disgust with himself and them, too. You can't take | ment that Rocky loomed up out of chances with a reformed rake. He is liable to become very self-rightthe house that afternoon. Sybil eous and unapproachable. You see? bathed in sherry in order to drown Curt Vallaincourt had to die."

Miss Bigelow's eyes remained closed. She was breathing heavily. McCale hurried on.

"Vallaincourt, of course, had told everyone's knowledge, a revolver only Veronica, to whom he had had never been owned, and last, but made full confession, and Christopher Storm because he was forced to, and Shari Lynn. Shari Lynn, chief from his pocket. Her brow fatalistic in all things, probably more so about the enigmatic Curt, set out to do a little blackmailing. Knowing that he hadn't come clean to the four who were in the plot. "The trouble in solving this crime she started plans for extortion. She lies in the fact that in the failure of got in touch with Karen and threatthe original plot, everyone had a ened to let the cat out of the bag motive. You are aware by now of before the wedding bells rang. Althe plan to gain control of the Bige- though they all knew that something low millions through Curt Vallain- was wrong, that there was a rat court. Stephen met Curt in Chi- somewhere, Karen decided to be on cago, through Victoria or vice ver- the safe side. She took \$500 with sa. Curt and Victoria had an af. her to The White Abbey for Lynn

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Stevens, of Atkinson, visited the Dean Stevens family Saturday.

CHAMBERS NEWS

Ben Medcalf arrived home Sunday via plane, from a visit with relatives at Shreveport, La.

Mrs. C. V. Robertson, Mrs. Charley Spann, Mrs. H. C. Wal-ter and Mrs. Elwyn Robertson made a trip to Grand Island, Monday.

The Bethany Presbyterian church east of town presented a Christmas program Sunday eve-

AUCTION Saturday, Dec. 28, 1946

New and Used Farm Machinery & Equipment

- 1 new International M tractor new International H tractor 1 International Regular Farmall
- 1 G M John Deere with cultivator
- 1 John Deere A with 226
- picker 2 John Deere B John Deere G P
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- Several 2-M International 2 No. 226 John Deere
- No. 101 John Deere 2 No. 15 John Deere
- No. 10 John Deere No. 20 John Deere
- new Wood Bros. Wood Bros.
- Mpls Moline 2-row snapper Case 2-row snapper Koolman mounted 2-row
- 1-M International 1-P International Miscellaneous -
- 1 new Oliver Baler, pickup attachment International Baler, pickup attachment
- Several discs, 12 to 21 foot 4-section drag
- new drill, 11 foot 15-30 J D D Tractor and
- Threshing machine 15 ft. Grain Auger elevator Erie Computing tank truck
- 2 Country delivery tank wag-
- 30-gallon Lubsters 1 flat poultry bed 55 gallon oil barrels

And many other items too numerous to list. Marion Lockwood, Auct. See VERNON NEDROW Or NEIL SKOGSBERG

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greeting to all the good friends of ours in this community whose patronage and good will means so much to us. May all good things be yours through out the New Year.

We are dropping this happy New Year

M & M Cafe





As 1946 limps meekly out the back door and the advent of a bright new year is upon us, we wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your many courtesies during this past year. May you encounter only joy and happiness in the coming months, and may each day bring you closer to the fulfillment of your every dream for the future.

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