

BLACK SOMBRERO

by CLIFFORD KNIGHT

Elsa Chatfield is disinherited by her Aunt Kitty who dies of an overdose of morphine. Hunt Rogers and Barry Madison go to Mexico to solve what they believe to be Aunt Kitty's murder. On arriving they find that Elsa's party has preceded them by plane. James Chesebro is murdered, Elsa's father, Sam, meets death from the sword of a marlin, and George Rumble is murdered and thrown into the sea near the dock. Rogers questions Berta, Sam's wife, and on examining the quilt with which Elsa had beaten Chesebro discovers that it conceals the knife that killed Chesebro. Rogers visits Lombardo and names each of those who had a motive for killing Aunt Kitty.

CHAPTER XIX

"The time Rumble died is important," he said. "The hands of his watch were stopped at nine-nine. But that is an impossible hour; Rumble was alive at that time and with us in the bar. He checked out of the hotel at ten-thirty, and disappeared. His body was found floating later near the wharf. His bag, discovered in the water at the edge of the wharf, indicates that he was, in spite of his quarrel with Dwight Nichols, determined to go aboard the Orizaba and accompany us swordfishing the next day. Rumble was like that, senior; he was a strange man.

"The hour of nine-nine has no meaning, unless we can explain it satisfactorily. That, I think, is quite simple. Of course, the watch could have stopped of itself, but I'm sure that's not the explanation. The first day ashore after the Orizaba arrived in Mazatlan, we met Rumble on the street. The time of day was mentioned. He looked at his watch, which I noted did not agree with mine. In fact, it was two hours slow. He explained it by saying that he was still keeping Los Angeles time, which is two hours slower than Mazatlan time.

"Now, then," Rogers went on earnestly, "assuming that, on the night he died, his watch was still keeping Los Angeles time, what does that signify? He must have died at eleven-nine. That simplifies things immensely. Where were we all at that time? Barry Madison and I at that time were on board the Orizaba. The others—Elsa, Dwight Nichols, Sam Chatfield and Reed Barton—came aboard about midnight. Reed Barton arrived alone at the wharf, having had to go around by his hotel for his things. Elsa, her father, and Dwight Nichols went to the wharf together. What time, Reed, did you reach the wharf?"

"How long had you been waiting when the others arrived?"

"I'd have to guess, Hunt. Perhaps twenty minutes. Maybe half an hour."

"Did you see anything of Rumble?"

"No."

Rogers turned to Dwight. "What time did you reach the wharf?"

"Oh," said Dwight, "we left the hotel at a quarter to twelve. Went down in a taxi. Shouldn't have taken five minutes."

"Now, this question, Dwight: After Barry and I left you and Sam Chatfield together, what happened? Were you together the remainder of the evening?"

Dwight was slow to answer. At length he replied: "No. Sam and I separated at ten-thirty. He said there was something he had to do yet before he could go aboard the Orizaba. He came back about an hour later. It was eleven-thirty, at any rate, when I met him again."

"Perhaps, senior, we have made a wrong assumption somewhere—our discussion has not disclosed the murderer. Perhaps," he paused, his manner somewhat hesitant, "perhaps this testimony you've heard just now seems rehearsed, senior; but I assure you it is not. I have realized that Dwight Nichols and Sam Chatfield could not have been in each other's company all that evening, but I have not known the facts until now.

"Earlier," Rogers continued, a new note of confidence coming into his voice, "I assumed that it was proper to exclude from suspicion all those persons who, subsequently to Katherine Chatfield's death, died by violence. I named Chesebro, Sam Chatfield and Rumble as victims of and not the probable killer."

"Yes, sir."

"Consider for a moment Sam Chatfield—"

"Senior Chatfield?"

"Yes. He had a most excellent motive for killing his sister. Mrs. Nichols, some months ago said this of him: 'He clutched decency to himself with all the passion of a fierce new love.' Now, then, had not his sister, an unmarried woman, disgraced the family by bearing a child? Had she not committed an even greater wrong against his daughter Elsa?"

"And so—" Rogers drew from his pocket the rotogravure clipping and gave it to Lombardo. "After Sam Chatfield had died, I found this on his desk at the rancho. Senior Lombardo, you did not know Chesebro, and, therefore, the point is lost upon you. But the child in the picture bears an unmistakable likeness to Chesebro. I believe that Sam Chatfield did not know that Chesebro was the guilty man until this picture from the paper came into his

possession. When it did, Chesebro already was in his house in bed and suffering from a heart attack. Dwight Nichols and Sam Chatfield were of similar build and height. How easy for Pedro, if he did actually see Sam Chatfield on his way to murder Chesebro, to confuse him with Nichols!

"Reed"—Rogers turned abruptly to Reed Barton—"your fish knife was used to kill Rumble. Can you explain that away?"

Reed Barton sat staring over the rail at the town. He shifted his long legs and said: "I can tell you



Elsa

what I think happened, Hunt. The knife was in my room at the hotel the morning I was arrested. Later, when I went to get my things together for the fishing trip, I looked for the knife to take with me, but it was gone. I did not see it again until I found it on Senior Lombardo's desk at headquarters."

"Do you accuse anybody?"

"No. But there is this to think about: While I was in jail, I asked Mr. Chatfield to get my watch from my room at the hotel. He brought it to me a couple of hours later. I've since investigated and I'm convinced that Mr. Chatfield is the only one who visited my room and could have taken it."

"Ah, so?" breathed Lombardo.

"Felipe," the conversation shifted swiftly into Spanish, as Rogers at last addressed the older of the two mariachis, "I want you to answer some questions."

"Si, senior."

"Did Senora Chatfield send you and Pancho with a note to the rancho?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you see anything of Senora Chatfield when you returned to the wharf?"

"No, sir. And when the launch is gone, Pancho and I go toward the town. Just as we are leaving the wharf the senior with the big sombrero and the fine clothes he passes us going out onto the wharf. And

behind him not very far is another senior following him. This is Senior Chatfield, Pancho and I recognize him but we do not speak. We are loafing on the street near the wharf all the time, and soon Senior Chatfield comes walking very fast toward the town. He does not see us. Pancho asks: 'What is his hurry, Felipe?' and I say I do not know. Then I wonder if the senior with the fine clothes is still out on the wharf. And I say to Pancho, 'Let's go and talk to the senior,' because he is un gran caballero, and perhaps we can sing for him.

"Well, senior, we go, Pancho and I. But he is not on the wharf. We think the launch has come and taken him, only the time is too short. But we do not know."

Silence fell upon us at the conclusion of this lengthy account. Rogers thanked the youth and turned to Lombardo.

"Senior," he said, "are you satisfied now, as I am satisfied, that when Sam Chatfield separated from Dwight Nichols at the hotel that night, he followed George Rumble to the wharf because he feared that Rumble would tell what he knew, and killed him with the knife he had taken from Reed Barton's room? And threw the body from the wharf and tossed the bag and the weapon after him, and then returned to meet the others of the party at the hotel?"

"Yes, Senior Rogers, I am satisfied."

"The death of Sam Chatfield can have been only an accident. It occurred before the fate of George Rumble was known, and for that reason confused me. A perfectly natural accident, I should say, and a fate justly due the man."

"I agree, senior."

Rogers abruptly left us and went to the companionway. He disappeared for a few minutes, then returned carrying the huge black sombrero with its silver ornaments. He stopped before us, turned the hat upside down and his fingers slipped inside the sweatband. He drew out a slip of paper, and held it out to Lombardo.

"The handwriting is that of Rumble," he said. I noted the immature, schoolboy writing I'd seen before. "You can verify it at the newspaper office. You will note the names in the following order: Madison, Barton, Rogers, Nichols, Chatfield, Chesebro. Those are names of the men in this party, excepting Rumble's. You note that every name is crossed out in the same heavy pencil line, except the name of Chatfield. For what it's worth, it's the evidence, Senior Lombardo, offered by a dead hand. By what means he discovered Sam Chatfield's guilt we'll never know. The slip was found only last night."

"I am satisfied, Senior Rogers," Lombardo repeated, rising. "I shall go ashore now and set Pedro free. He cannot be guilty now."

As the two shook hands and went down the ladder, followed by Felipe and Pancho, the launch appeared with Elsa, Margaret and Berta, eager now to come aboard, to leave Mazatlan behind them. They paused to say goodby to Lombardo and Doctor Cruz and the two boys, and then came up the ladder.

We stowed the launch and lashed it down, and an hour or so later in the full sunshine that beat down upon us out of a hot sky we lifted anchor and dropped down stream toward the long swells of the open ocean.

[THE END]

Star Dust

STAGE SCREEN RADIO

By VIRGINIA VALE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

A MAN who has met so many motion picture stars that he can't even remember how many he's known told me that Joan Fontaine is really pretty wonderful. Vitality, intelligence, warmth, sensitiveness—she has them all, said he. He seems to be right. A girl who grew up with her and her sister, Olivia de Havilland, told me that Joan always did know what she wanted, and how to get it. Well, when she came to New York after finishing "Frenchman's Creek" for Paramount, she wanted a vacation with her husband, Brian Aherne. So she took it, in a quiet corner of Connecticut—and sandwiched work as a nurse's aid in with doing the marketing.



JOAN FONTAINE

You'd never have known, if you heard Marlene Dietrich recently on the CBS Playhouse, in "Manpower," that she started for the broadcasting studio in fear and trembling. Back in August, 1942, she appeared on that same program—and fans practically mobbed her when she got out of a cab in front of the impressive building. This time she wore old clothes—and the doorman didn't want to let her in!

Here's perfect casting: Samuel Goldwyn has engaged Victor McLaglen for the role of the pirate known as "The Hook" in his technicolor production of "Treasure Chest." McLaglen will be a good pirate, even though he will be the nemesis of Bob Hope, and so involved in comedy. Hope's cast as a touring actor who gets involved with a boatload of pirates.

Lewis E. Lawes, for many years warden of Sing Sing, calls "New Prisons—New Men" "the first picture I have ever seen which clearly portrays the all around activities of a modern prison in operation." It's the latest of the "This Is America" series.

Ruth Brennan, daughter of Walter, begins her screen career in a small role in Selznick's "Since You Went Away." Not wanting to trade on her father's fame, she used the name of Lynn Winthrop—but the only person she fooled was herself. Her father's been signed by Warner Bros. for one of the top roles in support of Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not."

The Blue Network's glamour star, Gertrude Lawrence, is one of the proudest women in America, since the American Red Cross gave her her first stripe for 1,000 hours of service. Everybody who knows how much time and good hard work she gives to aiding the war effort feels that she ought to be the most decorated gal in America; she's never too busy or too tired to do whatever she can.

"One Man's Family" got its start on the air as a sustaining program on NBC way back in April, 1932. Carlton E. Morse had been writing and producing radio programs like "Chinatown Squad" and "Twisted Tales," but felt that the story of life as it is to the average American would appeal to the public. First thing anybody knew, the public made it a weekly listening habit—and it still is.

Nancy Kelly would like to spend winters on Broadway, on the stage, and summers in Hollywood, in pictures—if she manages it, let's hope she'll get better picture assignments than she's had recently. At 17 she was sensational in "Susan and God," on the stage, and the movies grabbed her. To an unprejudiced onlooker it seems that she's capable of far better work than she's done so far.

ODDS AND ENDS

Note to girls—Dick "Henry Aldrich" Jones is thrilled, but also embarrassed, by all those letters junior misses have been sending him, sealed with pink impressions of their lips. Latest addition to the "Silver Theater" is Madeline Lee, whom you used to hear as "Amos 'n' Andy's" Miss Blue. When Jan Pearce of "Great Moments in Music" lets go with the full power of his lungs, listeners fully expect the studio walls to be blasted apart. Hal Roach, former United Artists producer, has been promoted from major to lieutenant colonel in the U. S. army.

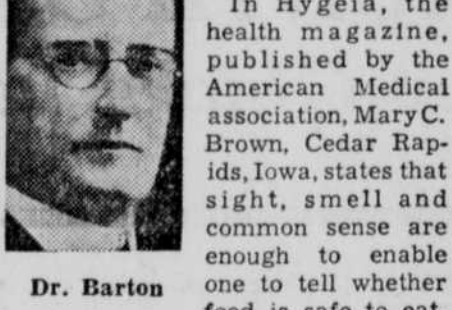
TO YOUR Good Health

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SPOILED FOOD

Owing to the excellent food laws now in operation there are not many cases of sickness and death from spoiled foods, considering the great necessity of preserving food for future use.



Dr. Barton

In Hygeia, the health magazine, published by the American Medical Association, Mary C. Brown, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, states that sight, smell and common sense are enough to enable one to tell whether food is safe to eat.

"Intelligent planning for the purchase of foods according to the family needs, plus a proper knowledge of how to care for foods not used immediately after they are bought, how to protect 'left-overs' that must be stored from meal to meal and how to detect spoilage, will pay large dividends in the avoidance of unsafe foods and in protection for the family budget."

The family cupboard is not a suitable storage place for cooked meat—especially luncheon meats and cured meats. All meat should be kept in one of the coldest shelves in the refrigerator.

Further, once meat is purchased it should be cooked within a few hours as the average "home" refrigerator is nowhere near as cold as the refrigerator from which the meat was obtained.

Another suggestion from Mrs. Brown is that while "leftovers" cooked and eaten may seem safe and saving, nevertheless, preventing leftovers is safer and more saving. The housewife should study her needs carefully and have fewer leftovers. Leftovers should be heated again before serving which should be within 24 hours after the first cooking.

Food that has an "off" or undesirable odor must not be used. Even boiling food with an "off" odor is not sufficient to make it safe.

"If fermentation and gas appear, or there is mould on top of the food, discard the entire can—not simply the part that appears spoiled."

The way to detect odors is to heat the food and smell it when it first becomes hot. An odor is more noticeable when the lid is first lifted. If in doubt, discard the food.

Those afflicted with catarrh or other conditions affecting the sense of smell and taste are not qualified to judge as to the fitness of food for eating.

Sugar Gives Spurt Of Energy to Heart

I have spoken before of the experiments conducted by Harvard research workers during the running of the Boston Marathon several years ago. The results showed that the amount of sugar present in the blood at the end of the race indicated the condition of the runner. The greater the amount of sugar present in the blood, the better was the physical condition of the runner and the nearer he was to being among the leaders at the finish. By having certain runners take more sugar daily during the following year and during the race of that year, these runners not only finished in better condition but were higher up in the race than they were the previous year.

Why is sugar—dextrose—so helpful in giving energy to the muscles? In the Cincinnati Journal of Medicine, Dr. Edward Podolsky, Brooklyn, states that treatment by dextrose is one of the most valuable procedures in the treatment of heart disease. The chief reason why dextrose is so helpful in heart disease is that it supplies so readily the necessary food for the hard working heart. Another reason is that dextrose helps to dilate or open up the blood vessels so that it requires less effort for the heart to pump blood through them.

Fortunately dextrose can be taken by mouth; the patient takes two or three ounces of sugar dissolved in a glass of water or weak tea three or four times daily for a period of two to three months. This produces a "lasting" effect.

When sugar cannot be given by mouth or by hypodermic injection it may be given in the form of an enema. Another method often used in hospitals is injecting the dextrose into a vein.

The thought, then, when we are tired from muscular exercise or work, or in cases of a weak or failing heart, is to use sugar or candy to supply "quick" nourishment to the heart.

QUESTION BOX

Q.—Please give me some details on the cause and cure of malaria.

A.—The bite of certain mosquitoes deposits a parasite which destroys red blood cells. There are varieties of malaria according to the time between attacks. Quinine is the treatment.

Q.—What should the blood pressure be for a person 47 years old?

A.—100 plus the age is considered a safe rule.

PATTERNS

SEWING CIRCLE



1918 12-42

1912 11-19

32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42. Size 14 (32) ensemble requires, with short sleeves, 4 1/2 yards 39-inch material. Send your order to:

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.
539 South Wells St. Chicago
Enclose 20 cents in coins for each pattern desired.
Pattern No. Size

Name

Address

A Gift Set

COULD any intimate gift be more acceptable than this slip of smooth contour and the matching panties? Lace edging puts both these pieces into the luxury class!

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1912 is designed for sizes 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19. Corresponding bust measurements 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37. Size 13 (31) slip and panties require 3 1/2 yards 39-inch material; 4 yards lace to trim.

Versatile

HERE'S a jumper and jacket to play many roles in your wardrobe! The jumper with a blouse makes a smart office costume. The jumper with jacket is smart for shopping, travel and office, too.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1918 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20; 40 and 42. Corresponding bust measurements 30,

Automatic Oxygen Masks Cut Worry, Guesswork

Unlike all other oxygen masks which must be regulated by the wearer, the latest type, now being made for United States military airmen, works automatically and eliminates a great deal of worry and guesswork, says Collier's.

At all altitudes up to 38,000 feet, it supplies the flier with the proper mixture of air and oxygen, the flow of both being regulated by valves which, in turn, are controlled by atmospheric pressure.

IN THE NAVY AIR CORPS

they say:

- "PICKLE LUGGER" for torpedo bomber
- "DUCK" for an amphibian plane
- "FLYING THE WET" for following a river
- "CAMEL" for the favorite cigarette with men in the Navy

FIRST IN THE SERVICE

With men in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, the favorite cigarette is Camel. (Based on actual sales records.)

FOR FRESH FLAVOR AND EXTRA MILDNESS, CAMELS CLICK WITH ME!

