# BLACK SOMBRERO SOMBRERO SOMBRERO

Aunt Kitty who died of an overdose of morphine. Hunt Rogers and Barry Madison go to Mexico to solve what they befleve 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 when his chair breaks, toppling him into the sea, and George Rumble is murdered and thrown into the sea near the dock. Rogers questions Berta, Sam's wife, and on examining the quirt with which Elsa had beaten Chesebro discovers by twisting the knob that it conceals the knife that killed Chesebro.

Now Continue.

## CHAPTER XVIII

"In the presence of Senor Lombardo and realizing the implication in it that you killed Chesebro?"

For only a fraction of a second did she hesitate, then she answered calmly, "Yes."

Senor Otilio Lombardo, jefe del policia, came up the Orizaba's ladder the next day but one, followed by Dr. Miguel Cruz. On the heels of the doctor came the barefooted, ragged mariachis. Felipe and Pan-

"I have puzzled much, gentlemen," remarked Lombardo in English after cigarettes had been lighted, "about the confession of Senorita Chatfield that she killed Senor Chesebro. I do not understand it, and I take no action. I had come that evening persuaded that it was better, despite your promise, that I keep Senor Barton in jail for the murder of Senor Rumble. But when Senorita Chatfield speak I am confused, senor, and do not know what is best to do."

A faint smile twitched at Rogers' lips and he looked away across the bay to the shore where the coco palms seemed to shoot like bursting green rockets into the sky.

"There are many confusing things in this affair, senor," he remarked. "They have puzzled me too, but I believe that I can explain them all

"I would be very glad if you would.'

"Four persons have died, Senor Lombardo-Katherine Chatfield in California; James Chesebro, Sam Chatfield and George Rumble, in Mexico. The explanation must include all four. It must be logical and there must be proof." "Yes, of course," said Rogers,

"Sam Chatfield and his wife, Berarrived in California for their annual visit a year ago last winter. They stopped at a hotel in Pasadena, and, uninvited, went to spend the night with his sister, Katherine-Elsa's Aunt Kitty. That night Katherine Chatfield was murdered. The method used was an overdose of morphine, to which drug she was an addict, taking it hypodermically. A very faint odor of chloroform detected the next morning by only one investigator furnishes the single clue to what happened. A few drops of chloroform on a handkerchief, I believe, suddenly held to the unsuspecting victim's nose, and kept in place during the brief and violent struggle which probably followed, and the victim was unconscious. There was necessary only to load the hypodermic with an overdose of morphine and shoot it into the unconscious victim, wipe away all fingerprints from the syringe and the supply bottle, and press the prints of the victim on these things. Simple?"

"It is most simple, Senor Rogers," said Lombardo, a serious expression upon his round, brown face. "Either a man or a woman could have done that, senor," Rogers began again. "Now, consider these facts: Present in the house, besides the servants, who do not figure in it at all, was Sam Chatfield. He knew that his sister was the mother of a child. He knew that she not only had refused to acknowledge the fact, but had permitted his daughter, Elsa, to be cruelly slandered, and not only had done nothing to quiet the gossip, but most likely had been in-

strumental in circulating it. "Also in the house that night was Elsa, who openly and frankly at all times, as you heard the other night, has admitted that she hated her aunt. Besides these two there was Senora Berta Chatfield, who ever since she married Sam had resented the treatment given her by her sister-in-law, and who, as a wife, knew how her husband felt toward Katherine Chatfield.

"There, Senor Lombardo," Rogers continued, "I have named three persons with motives to kill and obviously with the opportunity to do so. But there were others that night who came and went. George Rumble, who had done some publicity work for Katherine Chatfield, came to receive his pay, which was refused him. There was an argument and hot words, and Rumble left. But he remained in the neighborhood uncertain whether or not he should return. Did he go back and kill her?"

Rogers was developing very logically the facts in that first slaying, and Lombardo followed his words | does he tell the truth when he says closely. Doctor Cruz sat smoking | that Dwight Nichols is the one who cornhusk cigarettes endlessly, his eyelids making mere slits for his eyes. Neither spoke.

A little leniency shown in a critical time would have saved his property for him. Did Reed Barton kill her?

"James Chesebro arrived and departed that night; we do not know why, the reason for his visit never having been explained before his death. Did he have some motive to kill the woman? Next came Dwight Nichols." Rogers nodded in Dwight's direction. The latter merely sat and smoked calmly, listening without offering to interrupt.

"Dwight Nichols profited by some two hundred thousand dollars at the death of Katherine Chatfield, because of some jointly owned property. Dwight has stated that he was summoned, for some reason unknown to him, to advise with Miss Chatfield. Margaret Nichols was jealous of Katherine Chatfield, because she feared her husband's love was being stolen from her. She, also, made a visit that night. How-

ever, Mrs. Nichols says she got only as far as the entrance hall when someone dashed out of the house in panic, someone who, she says, did not see her concealed behind some drapery. That person admittedly



"And finally, there is Elsa," said Rogers thoughtfully.

was her husband. Dwight Nichols says that he arrived only to find Katherine Chatfield dead. Is he telling the truth? Is his wife telling the truth; did either, or both, of them kill the woman?" Rogers halted to sip from his frosty glass.

"It is all very strange, Senor Rogers." said Lombardo, stirring uneasily in his chair. "How can you discover the truth in so complicated a case?"

Rogers smiled faintly, and I thought that there was the merest twinkle in his mild blue eyes. "If." he began again, "we exclude from suspicion all those persons who subsequently died by violence-Chesebro, Sam Chatfield, George Rumble -as victims of and not themselves the probable killer, whom have we left?" He glanced from Doctor Cruz to Lombardo, then named them: "Elsa Chatfield, Senora Berta Chatfield, Margaret Nichols, Dwight Nichols, and Reed Barton. Those

"Now, then," Rogers said, a crispness coming into his voice, "we come to the death of James Chesebro. Of these five who could possibly wish him to die? Senora Berta Chatfield? I can think of no reason; I know of no motive, in fact. On the other hand, Reed Barton and Chesebro quarreled with each other over the love of Elsa Chatfield. Chesebro had discharged Barton from his employ. An excellent motive," he commented. "But-Dwight Nichols had been defrauded by Chesebro of fifty thousand dollars in a mining deal. That is a lot of money. Men have been murdered before now for much less. Senor Lombardo. And how about Margaret Nichols, the wife? Again fifty thousand dollars is a lot of money-to a woman."

"Yes, of course, much money," murmured Lombardo, absorbed in his own mental processes.

"And, finally, there is Elsa," said Rogers thoughtfully. "Hers is a stronger motive than all the others put together, senor. A young woman's good name is her most valuable possession. You are Mexican, and can understand the word revenge. Elsa was willing night before last to permit the inference that she had killed Chesebro. Senor, is Pedro. the pulque seller, a lying scoundrel who seeks to protect a woman, or killed?"

Lombardo's face was puzzled; he was now hopelessly at sea. A frown "That night, also," Rogers went had gathered on the forehead beon evenly, "Reed Barton was at tween the slitted eyes of Doctor Katherine Chatfield's home to give Cruz as he followed the intricacies proach to the problem of Rumble's her a book sent by Chesebro. Reed of the problem as set forth by Roghas been very frank to admit that ers. As for Rogers, I could not

Elsa Chatfield is disinherited by her | his father's death-a suicide-can | escape the conviction that he was be laid at the dead woman's door. enjoying himself hugely at the expense of Lombardo. His face, however, was more solemn than that of a judge. Lombardo started slightly at Rogers' question.

> "Yo no se, senor," he admitted, reverting to Spanish in his confu-

"I think, Senor Lombardo," said Rogers, dropping with a smile into Spanish, "you will let Pedro out of jail when I finish telling you who is the guilty person." Lombardo's only response was an involuntary lifting of the eyebrows.

"However," Rogers took up again in English in a more serious vein, "the name of the guilty one must wait a few minutes longer. I will come to it at the proper time. But now let us look for a moment at the death of Sam Chatfield. His is the most puzzling in the entire series. So much seems accident, so little may have been the handiwork of a murderer. A nut had come unscrewed from the swivel mechanism of the chair in which Sam sat in the launch. If the chair had not collapsed, there is little likelihood that he would have fallen overboard, probably none at all. Did somebody remove the nut? There was opportunity to do so for everybody who went on the fishing excursion, and even for George Rumble, who did not go. All of us, except the women members of the party, knew beforehand that Sam Chatfield would sit in that chair when we went after

"And, yet, I know of no motive death of Sam Chatfield. Of course, one never knows what's between a husband and a wife. Did Senora were putting up their fruits they dis-Chatfield have some motive un- covered they did known to us, and did she learn in some manner which seat her hus- sugar for putting band would occupy on that fatal ex- up all the jams cursion in the launch? But-let's and jellies they drop Sam Chatfield's death for the would like, but moment, and go on to George Rum- now they have key we are seeking."

Lombardo shifted in his chair and looked away for a moment to the tall towers of the church. Doctor Cruz crushed out the spark in his cigarette under his heel, and for a continued calmly to smoke.

"There are motives recognizable in the death of George Rumble," Rogers began once more. "For Margaret Nichols there was no opportunity. Senora Chatfield has admitted she went to the wharf that night to find someone to send for her husband's fishing equipment. Felipe and Pancho went on that errand for her. She returned to the yacht. She asserts, however, that she did not see Rumble, who was murdered on the wharf that night. There was a motive for the murder of Rumble on the part of Dwight Nichols; he and Rumble quarreled only a short time before Rumble died. Rumble knew that Dwight was the man who rushed in panic out of Katherine Chatfield's house the night she was murdered; he held it over him, as it were, and Dwight believed it was for the purpose of blackmail. After the two separated. Dwight, in the presence of Barry Madison, Sam Chatfield and me, made a remark which could be interpreted as a threat. He said that he would have to manage some way to quiet Rumble definitely."

Dwight was unmoved by this recital; he tapped the ash from his cigarette and continued to gaze calmly at Rogers. The latter paused to sip his glass of limeade before he went on.

"Another motive, not so strong, perhaps, is one that can be assigned to Reed Barton. George Rumble had fallen in love with Elsa. You knew that didn't you, Reed?"

"Yes." "Again, Senor Lombardo," said Rogers, turning back to the chief, "love is a possible motive. How strong? How shall it be evaluated?" He paused only briefly. "However, there's a very definite motive, and I think the real one, to account for Rumble's murder - Rumble knew too much. He boasted that he knew who the killer was. What, in that case, will a murderer do? He will strike at the first opportunity, for he prizes his safety above all else. And that's what happened."

Lombardo stirred uneasily in his chair, "Who, Senor Rogers," he asked, "heard Senor Rumble boast that he knew the murderer?"

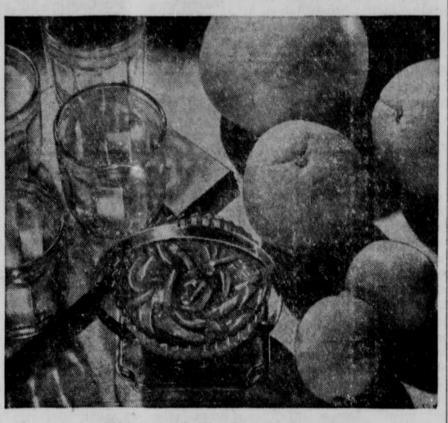
"Barry Madison, Sam Chatfield, Dwight Nichols, and I."

Reed Barton shifted his feet and cleared his throat lightly. "I shouldn't be left out, Hunt. Rumble hinted very broadly to me that he knew who killed Chesebro, then closed up like a clam when I asked him about it."

Rogers looked at him sharply, as if to determine whether the statement was made in a vein of bravado, or because he wished to be helpful. For a moment he was silent and then appeared to shift his ap-

(TO BE CONTINUED)

# MEMOS... by Lynn Chambers



Midwinter Jellies Pep Up Menus! (See Recipes Below)

Lynn Chambers' Point-Saving

Menu

Dinner Complete

Lettuce Salad with French

Dressing

Baked Apple Oatmeal Cookies

Beverage

boil hard 1/2 minute. Remove from

Grapefruit Marmalade.

(Makes 2 to 3 pints)

1 grapefruit

1 orange

1 lemon

sterilized glass jars and seal.

family no end:

seal at once.

If you can spare a few points for

the crushed pineapple called for in

this recipe you can make a colorful

and tart jam that will delight the

Winter Jam.

1 cup crushed pineapple

Juice and grated rind of

Cook the cranberries and apples

in water until they are clear and

Colorful and spicy is this next jam

with all the relish and tang that

Cranberry Jam.

1 cup each, water and vinegar

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

1/2 tablespoon ground cloves

1/2 tablespoon ground allspice

Mash cranberries lightly. Add

vinegar and water and cook until

soft. Put through a coarse strainer;

add sugar and spices. Cook 8 min-

utes, stirring constantly. Pour into

sterilized jars and seal immediately.

have bottled grape juice on hand.

Here is an excellent jelly that is

quickly made with powdered fruit

Grape and Orange Jelly.

(Makes 7 6-ounce glasses)

11/2 cups canned orange juice

Measure sugar into a dry dish and

set aside until needed. Measure

juice into a 3- or 4-quart saucepan

and place over hottest fire. Add

powdered fruit pectin, mix well, and

continue stirring until mixture

comes to a hard boil. Pour in sugar

at once, stirring constantly. Bring

to a full rolling boil and boil hard

1/2 minute. Remove from fire, skim,

pour quickly. Paraffin hot jelly at

If you want sugar-saving suggestions,

write to Lynn Chambers, Western News-

paper Union, 210 South Desplaines

Street, Chicago 6, Illinois. Don't for-

get to enclose a stamped, self-addressed

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

envelope for your reply.

11/2 cups bottled grape juice

1 box powdered fruit pectin

31/2 cups sugar

And now for those of you who

only cranberries can give:

8 cups cranberries

6 cups sugar

tender. Add the

lemon, pineapple

and sugar. Mix

well and boil the

mixture rapidly

until it is thick

and clear. Pour

into sterilized

glass jars and

3 cups cranberries

1 cup diced apples

11/2 cups water

3 cups sugar

1 lemon

Bran-Raisin Muffins

hot jelly at once.

Jelly

## Get Your Spreads!

Are you low on brown points? Then set the jelly and jam kettles boiling with midwinter fruits and upon the part of anyone for the make some delicious spreads to save points.

> Last summer when homemakers not have enough

ble's. I think that in it we will find probably caught up on the sugar and something of interest-perhaps the can boil the juices they saved into delicious, quivery jellies. Use the jellies and jams on biscuits and muffins when the butter is scarce. It spells first aid and appetite appeal to menus.

For those of you who did not put moment his hands were idle. The up juices for winter jelly-making, mariachis were growing restless, there are plenty of fruits in season understanding nothing that had been now that make delightful spreads. said in English. Reed Barton sat Out with the kettles and colanders, easily with legs crossed, and Dwight | with jelly glasses and paraffin and

> Orange Marmalade. (Makes 6 6-ounce glasses) 31/2 cups prepared fruit (about

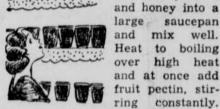
1% pounds) 2½ cups sugar

1 3-ounce box powdered fruit pectin Prepare fruit. Use peels from 6 medium-sized oranges and 2 lemons. Cut in quarters. Lay quarters flat; shave off and discard half of white part. Put peels through chopper twice. Add 1 cup sugar, 21/2 cups water, juice from 1 medium-sized lemon and 1/8 teaspoon soda. (This 1 cup sugar is in addition to measurement given above.) Cover. Heat to boiling. Simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Measure sugar into dry dish and set aside until needed. Measure prepared fruit into 3 to 4-quart kettle, filling up last cup or fraction of cup with water if necessary. Place over high heat. Add powdered pectin, mix well, and continue stirring until mixture comes to a hard boil. Pour in sugar at once, stirring constantly. Continue stirring, heat to a full, rolling boil and boil hard 2 minutes. Remove from heat, skim, pour quickly. Paraffin hot marmalade at once.

Honey Orange Jelly.

(Makes 6 6-ounce glasses) 1 cup juice 3 cups honey

1/2 bottle fruit pectin To prepare juice, squeeze and strain juice from 2 medium oranges. Measure juice



large saucepan and mix well. Heat to boiling over high heat and at once add fruit pectin, stirring constantly. Then heat to a full rolling boil and

# Lvnn Savs

Jelly Hints: Consistency and flavor are the most important points in making jelly. Careful cooking can give you a high score on both.

To jell, fruit juices must contain pectin or must have it added from a commercial product. Pectin must be combined with the correct proportion of sugar in the presence of acids and mineral salts to form jelly. Prolonged cooking destroys the

power of pectin, especially in the very acid fruits. This is the reason that no more water than necessary should be used in cooking the fruit.

Best jellies are tender and quivery and translucent. They should cut easily but break with a clean, sharp line.

Save Used Fats

# PATTERNS

SEWING CIRCLE

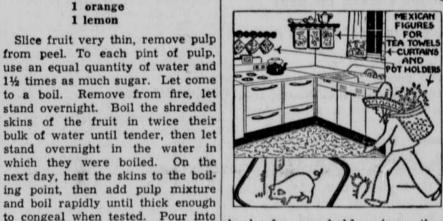


For Warmth, Comfort

CET the greatest good from this pajama pattern by making it twice-once in flannel or broadcloth as a sleeping suit, once in Nose Must Drain flannel or corduroy as a lounging suit. Both ways it will help keep To Relieve Head Colds Miseries you warm this winter.

# Mexican Pan Holders, Towels and Curtains

THE corner shelf with towel heat, skim, pour quickly. Paraffin rack screwed to the bottom and red cut-out scallops across the front is an idea for a kitchen brightener. The scalloped strip of wood over the stove with cup



hooks for pan holders is another. It is the Mexican pan holders, towels and curtains that will interest the gift maker with needle and

A whole set of amusing Mexican figures may be embroidered in simple outline stitch in bright colors. Some of the transfer designs are large and some are small.

NOTE—You will enjoy making articles mbroidered with these quaint colorful Mexican figures. There are more than twenty on this hot iron transfer sheet-all different and all easy to do. Price 15c. Order No. 203 and it will be mailed immediately upon receipt. Address:

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SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT. 530 South Wells St. Enclose 20 cents in coins for each pattern desired. Pattern No......Size..... Address .....

Next Question, Please!

During a question period following a lecture, a man arose and put a foolish query to the speaker. The latter replied:

"The logic of your question makes me think of another. Can you tell me why fire engines are always red? You can't? Well, fire-engines have four wheels and eight men. Four and eight are twelve. Twelve inches make a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth was a ruler. The Queen Elizabeth is the largest ship that sails the seven seas. Seas have fish. Fish have fins. The Finns fight the Russians. The Russians are red. Fire-engines are always rushin'. Therefore, fire-engines are always red.

"I hope this answers your question also."

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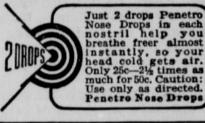
Don't form the habit of depending on harsh, griping laxatives until you've tried this easy, healthful way millions now use to keep

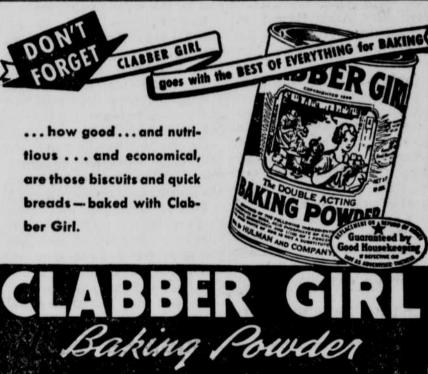
It's fresh lemon juice and water taken first thing in the morningjust as soon as you get up. The juice of one Sunkist Lemon in a glass of water. Taken thus, on an empty stomach, it stimulates normal bowel action, day after

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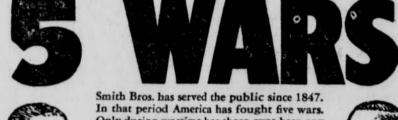
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