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● SERIAL STORY

Murder on the Boardwalk

BY ELINORE COWAN STONE

Last Week: Newspapers brand Christine "Mystery Girl" of the Talbert murder. At her room she finds a sheaf of $1000 bonds hidden in her suitcase. She tries to tell Bill. He cuts her off with, "Bill Yardley's shoes fit the prints found by the police."

CHAPTER XI

"Oh, Bill — no!" Christine cried miserably.

"And then some." His voice was a little grim. "But at any rate, I'm still in circulation. And I've got little sleuthing of my own to while I am. I'll be sewed up till noon; but how about me for lunch about 12:30 same place where we night?"

Christine said, "I'll Bill," and hung up, trem good deal.

But Inspector Parsons, she remembered after a moment, did not arrest people for murder until he was sure they would stay arrested. ...And she had business with Inspector Parsons herself, as soon as she could find him.

Just outside her own front door she had to snub three reporters. She was not sufficiently experienced to dodge the news cameras.

* * *

She was admitted to Inspector Parson's office at once. He looked, Christine thought, as if he had hardly slept; but he was as cool and alert as ever.

"I've come to tell you," she began, "that I've been a good deal of a fool."

"You — and several others," he agreed pleasantly.

"Last evening," Christine hurried on, "I went to a public reading by a clairvoyant called Chandra."

"And he told you," the inspector cut in with a tired smile, "among a lot of other things you didn't believe any one but yourself could possibly know, that you were going under an assumed name?"

"Why — yes," Christine admitted; "but he also told me something that may surprise even you, Inspector — that someone had disturbed my things at the Crestview."

"So you have called to tell me that it was Chandra's dagger you found so opportunely last night. ... A little late, isn't it?"

After a startled breath, Christine asked, "How do you know that it is his?"

* * *

"Practically every one in Surf City has seen that dagger. You drew his picture yesterday. Artists don't miss picturesque details like that... I wonder if you would be interested if I told you that two hours after that merger between Amalgamated and National went through yesterday, this Chandra sold a piece of land he's been paying ruinous taxes on for years to the reorganized company, for a new plant they're planning."

"Then you've arrested him?"

"Not yet ... That dagger was a little too obviously a planted clew."

Christine thought in sudden panic, Can he imagine that I put it there?

"It didn't occur to you, I suppose," she said, "that as shrewd a man as he might have planted it himself — guessing that the police would reason that way?"

"It did," the inspector told her wearily, "even after our medical officer told us that Mrs. Talbert was not stabbed in that booth at all, but was brought there after the murder."

"Oh!" Christine said blankly. Then she rushed on in her eagerness to get on with her own errand, "But what I really came to tell you is that, when I did examine my things, I found these hidden away among them."

* * *

She pushed the envelope across his desk.

He opened it, riffled through the contents; then looked up, a frown between his brows.

"And," Christine finished hastily, "I haven't any idea who put them there or whose they are, if that's what you're going to ask."

He glanced from her to the papers and back again with such cool, mirthless amusement that Christine thought in sudden panic, He's found something I missed. I should have looked more carefully.

"You mean," the inspector demanded, "that you don't know that these bonds were the property of your cousin?"

After a moment's blank consternation, Christine shook her head wordlessly.

"Well, now that I have told you, does it suggest anything to you that you had not thought of before?"

"But," Christine hazarded, "if someone killed her for those, why wouldn't he keep them?"

"There are other reasons for murder besides robbery, Miss Thorenson. Suppose Mrs. Talbert was not killed for the bonds after all, but from any one of a number of other motives... In such a case, mightn't the guilty person reason that the smart thing to do was to make it seem as if she had been robbed by someone else — especially someone who might be thought to have a motive for the murder ... You, for instance, Miss Thorenson — with a fortune at stake if that will is authentic."

* * *

When she only stared at him without speaking, he went on, "Or supposing the bonds do explain Mrs. Talberth's death, perhaps the murderer thought that, after the first shouting was over, he could get them from you as easily as he left them with you... Perhaps," he added softly, "it was even someone who counted on your keeping them safely for him."

"You — you can't believe that, Inspector Parsons."

"Frankly, I don't know what I believe except that finding these has completely changed the complexion of this whole business. I have been supposing that your cousin's death was tied up with her opposition to the Amalgamated-National merger. Now it begins to look as if it had only been very neatly timed to look that way — or planned to suggest anything except what's really back of it... Have you read the papers, Miss Thorenson?"

"Yes," Christine told him, dreading she hardly knew what. "That is — the extra, after I left here early this morning."

"Then perhaps you saw that your cousin's shoes had been found to fit one pair of those footprints leading from that stranded rowboat toward the booth where she was found?"

"Yes."

And Bill's shoes, Christine was remembering, fitted the other pair.

"That story happened to be true, except," Inspector Parsons was going on, "that they weren't made by the shoes she was wearing; but another pair, identical in measurement with one slightly broken heel. We haven't found those shoes yet; but we are reasonably sure that they were taken from your cousin's house by someone who entered it after it was closed the other evening — taken for the express purpose of making that false trail."

"You mean that my cousin's house has been broken into?"

"I didn't say that. It was entered by someone who had a key."

When Christine did not speak, he demanded, "Do you happen to have a key to Mrs. Talbert's house, Miss Thorenson?"

Christine moistened her dry lips and said, "No," hating the woodenness of her own voice as she spoke.

* * *

When she began to think he would never go on, he asked, "Do you know anyone else who has one?"

"No," Christine said woodenly again.

Then she thought, But of course — Jaspar.

The inspector shrugged and demanded with one of his disconcerting shifts of subject, "Was your cousin's vision particularly poor?"

"I don't know... Of course she wore glasses."

"Do you know who her optician was?"

"I don't, but Jaspar would, of course. He knows more about her affairs than anyone else."

"Jaspar?" He glanced at some notes on his desk. "Oh, yes. That's the name of Mrs. Talbert's butler. We haven't been able to get in touch with him yet."

"Oh, yes you have." Christine drew a deep breath.

Now she was in for it.

(Continued Next Week)

by Laura Wheeler

Simple crochet that pays big dividends in beauty—these pineapple-design doilies. Done in string they cost little in time or money.

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ISSUE 28—1944

It's Victory Canning Time Again!

There's one rule about canning that you'd best remember when you put up those jar of fruits and vegetables: "Two hours from garden to kettle." That means using only foods at the peak of condition, for you get out of your can only what you put into it.

If vegetables turn brown in their jars and look unattractive as compared with the fresh produce, it's probably because of overprocessing (overcooking) or lack of fresh vegetables when you started canning.

When you overcook those bright red berries, they can't possibly be fresh looking or taste like a reasonable facsimile of the original product. Follow directions and cook just long enough, and the result will be well worth the effort.

Ripe Sour Cherry and Currant Jelly

4½ cups juice
7 cups sugar
½ bottle fruit pectin

To prepare juice stem, but do not pit, and crush about 1½ quarts fully ripe cherries. Crush about 1¼ quarts fully ripe currants. Combine fruits; add ¾ cup water, bring to a boil, cover and simmer 10 minutes. Place fruit in jelly bag and squeeze out juice.. Measure sugar and juice into a large saucepan and mix. Bring to a boil over the hottest fire and at once add bottled fruit pectin, stirring constantly. Then bring to a full, rolling boil and boil hard ½ minute. Remove from fire, skim and pour quickly. Paraffin while hot.

Raspberry-Cherry Conserve

3 cups cherries
3 cups red raspberries
4½ cups sugar

Cook cherries in very little water until skins are tender. Add raspberries and sugar. Cook until thick and clear. Pour into sterilized jars and seal while hot.

Commercial pectin shortens the jelly-making process considerably and preserves the fresh fruit color and flavor in the finished product.

Three-Fruit Preserves

2 pints raspberries
2 pints strawberries
1 to 1½ pounds cherries
Equal amount of sugar by weight, of all fruits

Combine all ingredients and boil 2 minutes. Add ½ cup lemon juice and boil 2 minutes longer. Remove from fire and allow to cool. When cool, pour into sterilized jars and seal. Although the preserves look thin when you finish cooking, they will thicken upon standing.

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Editorially, The Northern Miner said this of the Yellowknife outlook: "He would be a very heedless man who would lightly cast away his equities in this potent field—History may be repeating itself and history doesn't repeat very often in a lifetime".

Why this Great Excitement in Yellowknife?

Because Yellowknife looks like it will become the richest Gold Camp in Canada—reminiscent of the old Yukon Gold Rush days!

What is the Recent Market Record of Yellowknife Shares?

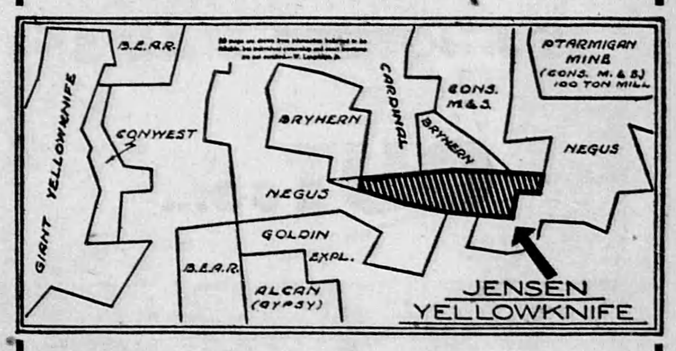
Giant Y.W.	was 40¢ in Jan'y.	Now	$8.10
Negus	was 59¢ in Jan'y.	Now	1.62
Bryhern Y.K.	was ? in Jan'y.	Now	1.00
B.E.A.R. Y.K.	was 38¢ in Jan'y.	Now	1.79
Kamlac	was 15¢ in Jan'y.	Now	1.50
Jensen	was 15¢ in June	Now	.28

What are the Profit Possibilities of "Jensen Yellowknife"?

Present price approximately 28¢ per share—Located in the heart of the Camp and surrounded by Bryhern (2 properties) and Negus (2 properties) as well as adjoining Consolidated Smelters. Property is well located. $54.00 Assays just reported. One Zone traced for at least 1500 ft. on strike. Work already under way. Additional development reports will be made public as received from the property.

Where is Jensen Yellowknife Located?

See Map below—Note relationship to Negus, Bryhern, Giant Yellowknife, B.E.A.R., and Kamlac.



Who is Buying Jensen?

New Financial interests—From Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Montreal, have recently come into "Jensen".

Who are the Officers?

President—E. A. R. NEWSON
Vice-President—ROSS H. FAWCETT
Director —EARL S. MURPHY, Phm.B.

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