

**TODAY'S MYSTERY STORY**  
By PHILIP FRANCIS NOWLAN

**Yesterday's Mystery Solution**

IN THE mystery of "The Fifty Typists" Harvey Hunt did indeed at first suspect that Ramborne had had fifty stenographers simply because that many different combinations of initials appeared at the bottom of the letters. The dates of the letters, written by Ramborne to six different creditors, established the fact that he had had only one stenographer at a time, and that the girls had followed one another in rapid succession in his employ.

But he proved to himself that the initial signatures of the stenographers were not a blind by the manner in which the letters were typed. Peculiarities of type, tiny characteristics of the individual letters of the alphabet, showed that all the communications had been written on the same machine. But there were variations. No two typists operate a machine in precisely the same manner. One is inclined to hit one key harder than another. Different typists

have different combinations of letters which they strike off faster than others. It was these variations, classified and analyzed, that showed Harvey Hunt that fifty different persons really had written the letters.

The work of most of the typists was good. There was no reason why Ramborne should have discharged them in such rapid succession, unless he was afraid that a girl staying in his office too long might learn too much about his affairs.

This meant two things to Harvey Hunt: first, that it was possible for a girl to pick up some information Ramborne did not want to leak out, and second, that while the information gleaned from any one girl would not be worth little, that which all of them had picked up, if properly pieced together, probably would give a fairly intimate picture of the inside workings of Ramborne's business over the entire period of ten months.

Harvey Hunt made the rounds of the typewriter agencies and schools and in-

spected their records to get the names of the girls they had sent to Ramborne & Co. He argued that the girls themselves would be very likely to bear a grudge against Ramborne for discharging them without apparent cause, and so they would be willing to talk.

It happened as he expected. It took a long time to trace them all. Some had left the city. But in the end, picking all their observations of Ramborne together he got a splendid description of the man and his mannerisms and habits, and learned that he had sent registered letters about which he used to be much concerned to a certain address in Wichita.

Relatives of Ramborne were found at this address. They were watched, and through them Ramborne eventually was trailed to his hiding place.

**XIV**

**Why were these—  
Names Without Owners**

TELL me, Hunt, do you know anything about Nolly Bernbein?" exploded Dan Harrison, of the attorney general's office, bursting in on the private investigator.

"I know him by sight and something

of his record," admitted Harvey Hunt. "Why do you want to know about him?" "If you can find that gang of girls that's stealing silk for him I'm your friend for life. You know me, Hunt. I don't often have to call for help, but this thing's got me stumped. Here's a guy who's got at least thirty-nine or forty girls circulating around pulling off silk thefts. I've got the names of all of them, and I'll be everlastingly embarrassed if we can locate one of them."

"Suppose you tell me more about it, Dan," suggested the investigator. "How did you get the list?"

"Copies of telegrams," Harrison elucidated. "Here's one." He handed over a yellow slip on which Hunt read: "See if Flora Murphy has any habits. Need two bolts."

"That telegram was sent by Solly to his wife in Cincinnati. It's just like all the rest, except the others mention the names of different girls, and different kinds and amounts of merchandise. For instance, here's one he sent Bertha—that's his wife, you know—asking her to drop off at Columbus on her way East and see how Molly King is 'fixed on gorgettes.' But I give you my word, Hunt, we had Bertha Bernbein trailed, and she didn't do a darn thing but get off the train at Columbus, check

her trunk, buy her lunch and get on the next train East. There was a man within fifteen feet of her the whole time, and she didn't talk to a soul or call up anybody on the phone. It's the same way every city she stops in. Doesn't talk to a soul. Checks her trunk in and out, goes to her hotel, eats her meals and travels on to another city."

"Pretty interesting," commented Harvey Hunt. "Will you work with me on the case?" asked Harrison. Hunt mused a moment. "I don't think it will be necessary."

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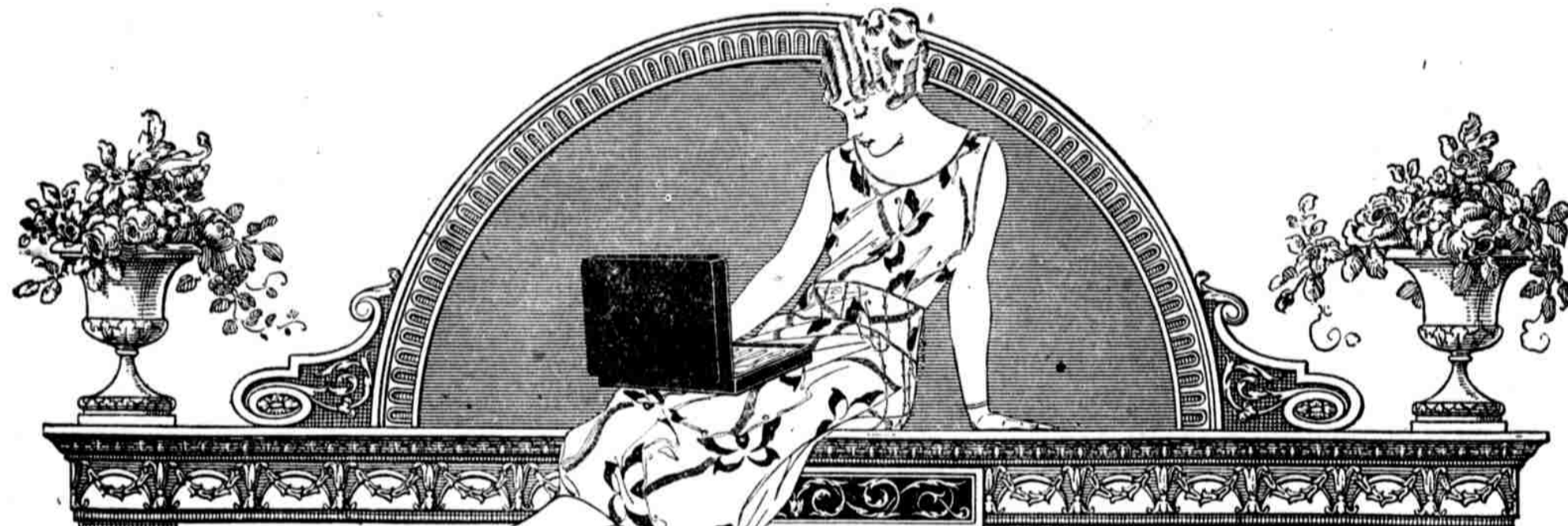
Under my new department Mesh Bags can be repaired, reinforced and retined at a very small cost. **NEW MESH BAGS A.E. Moss, 33 S. 9th** "Beaded Bag Repairing a Specialty"

Dan," he said. "You're just wasting your time trying to trail a bunch of girls when there aren't any girls. Now here's a tip for you. See if this isn't the way they're covering up their tracks. If it is you can manage getting the rest of the evidence together yourself."

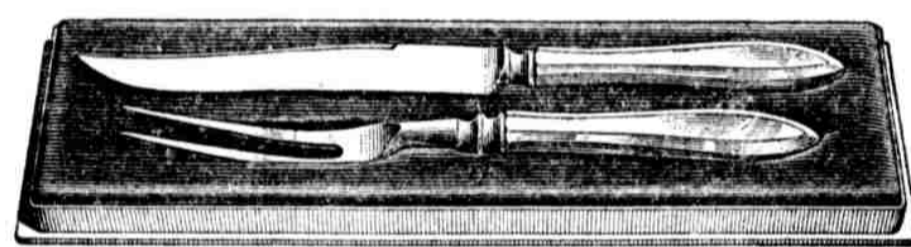
Harrison how Solly and Bertha Bernbein were acting as receivers of stolen goods and keeping these goods concealed while they juggled them around the country.

Do you know how they did it? The answer will appear tomorrow. (Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.)

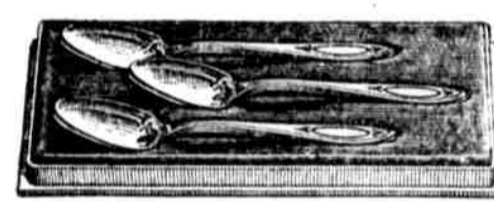
Opera Hands Quit Strike in Paris Paris, Nov. 30.—The strike of the orchestra, chorus and stage hands which closed the opera in mid-October has been called off and the house will reopen for performances next Friday. The orchestra, which was the last body of employes to give in, today agreed to the terms offered by the management.



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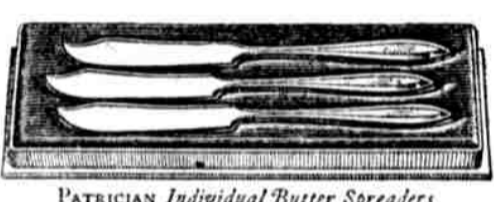
PATRICIAN 2-Piece Carving or Game Set \$10.00 per Set  
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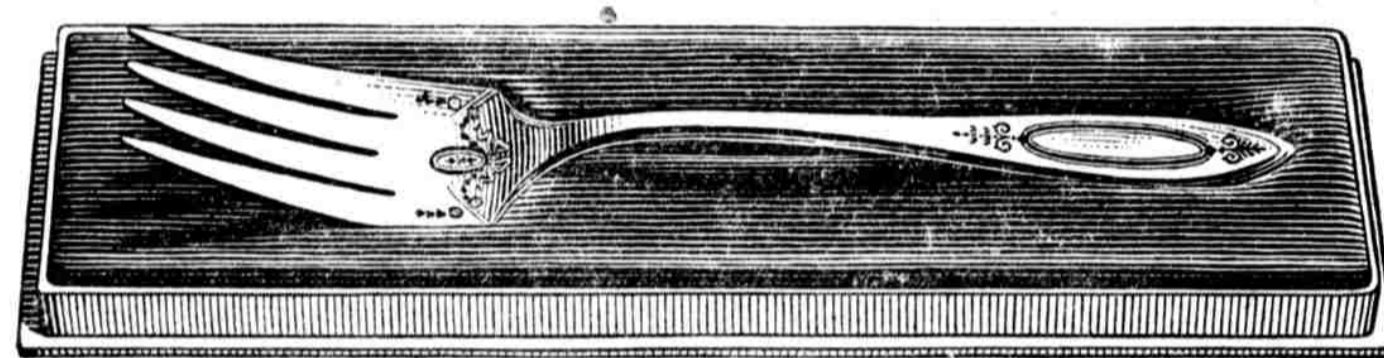
ADAM Orange Spoons \$6.25 Set of Six  
For oranges, grapefruit, etc.



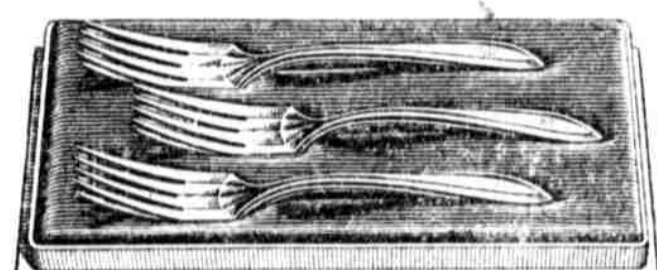
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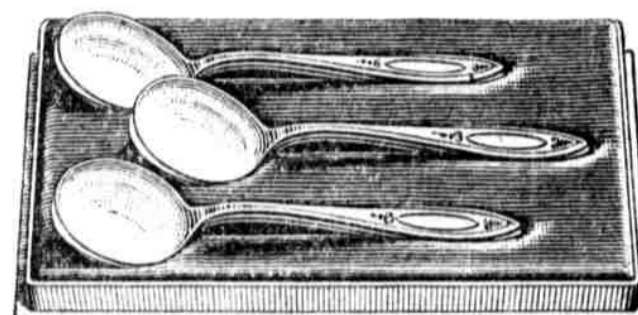
PATRICIAN Individual Butter Spreaders \$7.00 Set of Six  
Used with individual bread and butter plates



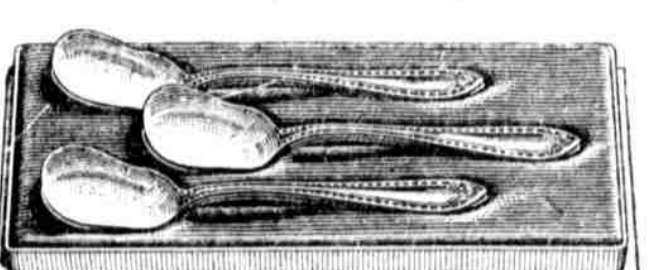
ADAM Cold Meat or Serving Fork \$2.50 each  
For serving sliced fowl, cold meats, fish, etc.



PATRICIAN Individual Salad Forks \$8.00 Set of Six  
For serving salads or French pastry



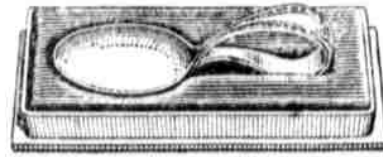
ADAM Bouillon Spoons \$8.00 Set of Six  
For serving bouillon, consommé and soup when served in cups



SHERATON Ice Cream Spoons \$6.25 Set of Six  
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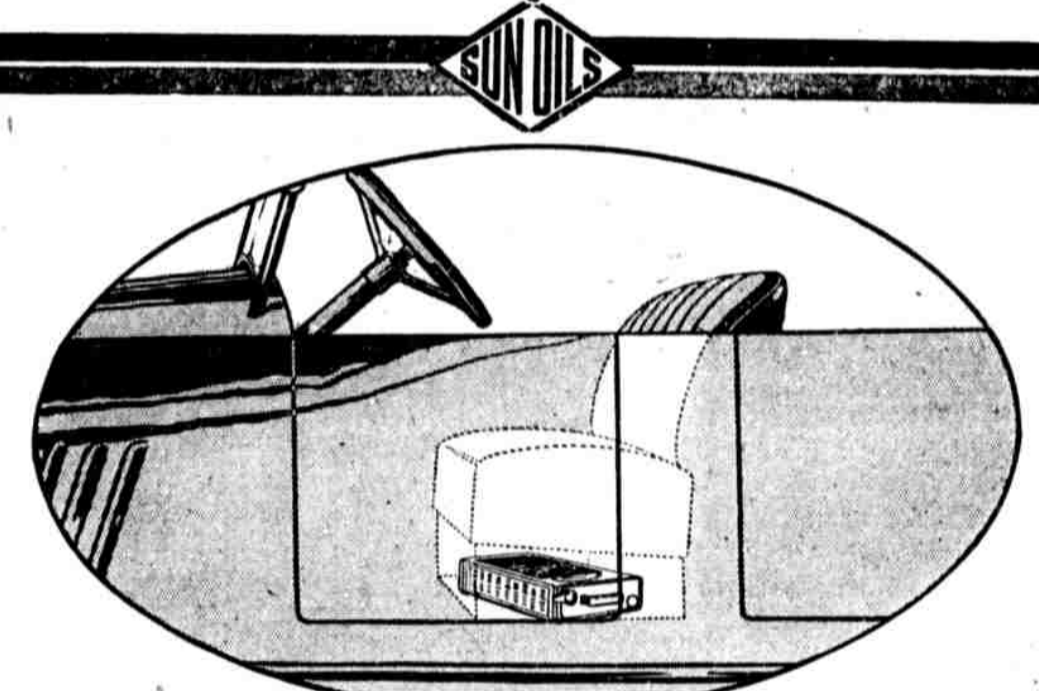
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