

TODAY'S MYSTERY STORY

By PHILIP FRANCIS NOWLAN

Yesterday's Mystery Solution

It was the "X" which had been chalked on the side of the automobile in the case of "The Unknown Quantity" that led Harvey Hunt to a solution of the problem.

Who had put it there and why? This was the question he asked himself, and for which he worked out an answer in the light of the information which the president of the Murtree Co. had given him.

The chalk mark could have had no other purpose than to signal to somebody that this was the car bearing money, the car singled out for attack. Miller must have been innocent. If Miller wanted to steal the money he simply would have driven away with it without bothering to chalk up his car.

If Miller was innocent, and nobody but he and the president of the company knew he was going in town for money, then nobody else knew it until he actually got to the bank and came out with the money. And only somebody around the bank could have known that.

Chalking the car would have been futile were there not a prearranged plot on the part of persons who knew that officials of the company often withdrew large sums of money at odd times and without adequate protection. The person who marked the car must have been waiting for such a visit as Miller paid the bank. Nobody could be loitering around a bank indefinitely without attracting suspicion except the special policeman himself. Hence Hunt figured this man was a member of the gang.

The next day Miller's dead body was found at a point much closer to the city than that at which Hunt had found his abandoned car.

Then, as the case resolved itself down to the routine of shadowing the bank guard in order to establish contact with the rest of the gang, Hunt turned it over entirely to the police. Eventually the auto bandits were rounded up. It developed that Miller had been stopped and dragged from his car with the money at a point near where his body had been found. Then a member of the gang had driven the company car farther out before abandoning it in order to delay the finding of the body.

**Can you solve this mystery of—
The Mona Lisa Girl**

HARVEY HUNT looked at the girl curiously. She bore his scrutiny undisturbed. She even smiled a little,

and it was the quality of that smile that made the criminologist refer to her always after that as "the Mona Lisa girl."

Her eyes always seemed to hold that half taunting, half smiling inscrutability. For the rest there was nothing remarkable about her, unless it were, perhaps, that she had a little more poise than the average girl of her years, for she seemed to be quite young.

She was neatly and modestly dressed, but her clothes were not the sort to attract attention. In her brief conversation with him she had shown unmistakable signs of culture. Her hands were small and well cared for, and her long, pointed nails were exquisitely manicured. No kitchen work there, thought Hunt.

Finally she looked up across the cafe table at which they were seated.

"You think I do not look like a girl who works, Mr. Hunt? I assure you I have earned my own living for four years, and I am really in need of a position. I have been given notice by my present employer, and I leave him tomorrow. You see, I am perfectly frank with you. I have been fired."

"Frankness is always a profitable policy in the long run," murmured the criminologist, "but it is not about these things that I am curious, Miss—er—Patton. I think you said your name was. I am wondering why you think I am in a position to give you employment. I am, as you may or may not know, an independent operator. Some people think me entirely too independent. I follow the game as a hobby, not entirely as a means of livelihood. It pleases me to take only the sort of cases that appeal to me. I have never had an ambition to build up a big business or a large organization. I have never taken any steps in that direction, and have no intention of doing so now. I always play a lone hand, with no assistance except such as my good friends among the police and the agencies are good enough to accord me from time to time. You have been frank with me. I will be equally frank with you. I need no operatives. Still less do I intend to take on a novice for instruction."

"Perhaps when I tell you what I have to offer you," smiled the girl, "you will make an exception in my case."

"And what have you to offer me, Miss Patton?"

"An intimate knowledge of Bruker Baden's business, and the man's own personal affairs." She smiled in quiet enjoyment of the sudden interest in the criminologist's glance. "You see, he is my present employer."

Hunt had good reason to be interested. Bruker Baden, one of the most prominent, if not the most reputable lawyers in the city, was, he had rea-

son to suspect, the secret power which in recent months had been making itself felt in the underworld, and was responsible for a rapid increase in the number of successful and profitable crimes. A "state of war" already existed between Hunt and Baden.

"What position do you hold?" asked Hunt.

"Typist," she said. But she had no sooner uttered the words than the Mona Lisa smile disappeared, and her gaze faltered under the cold steel which had come into that of the criminologist.

"Miss Patton," he said, "you are a liar. Go back to Baden and tell him to choose a better girl the next time he sends one to me."

But what he had the girl told, and how did Harvey Hunt know it? The answer will appear tomorrow.

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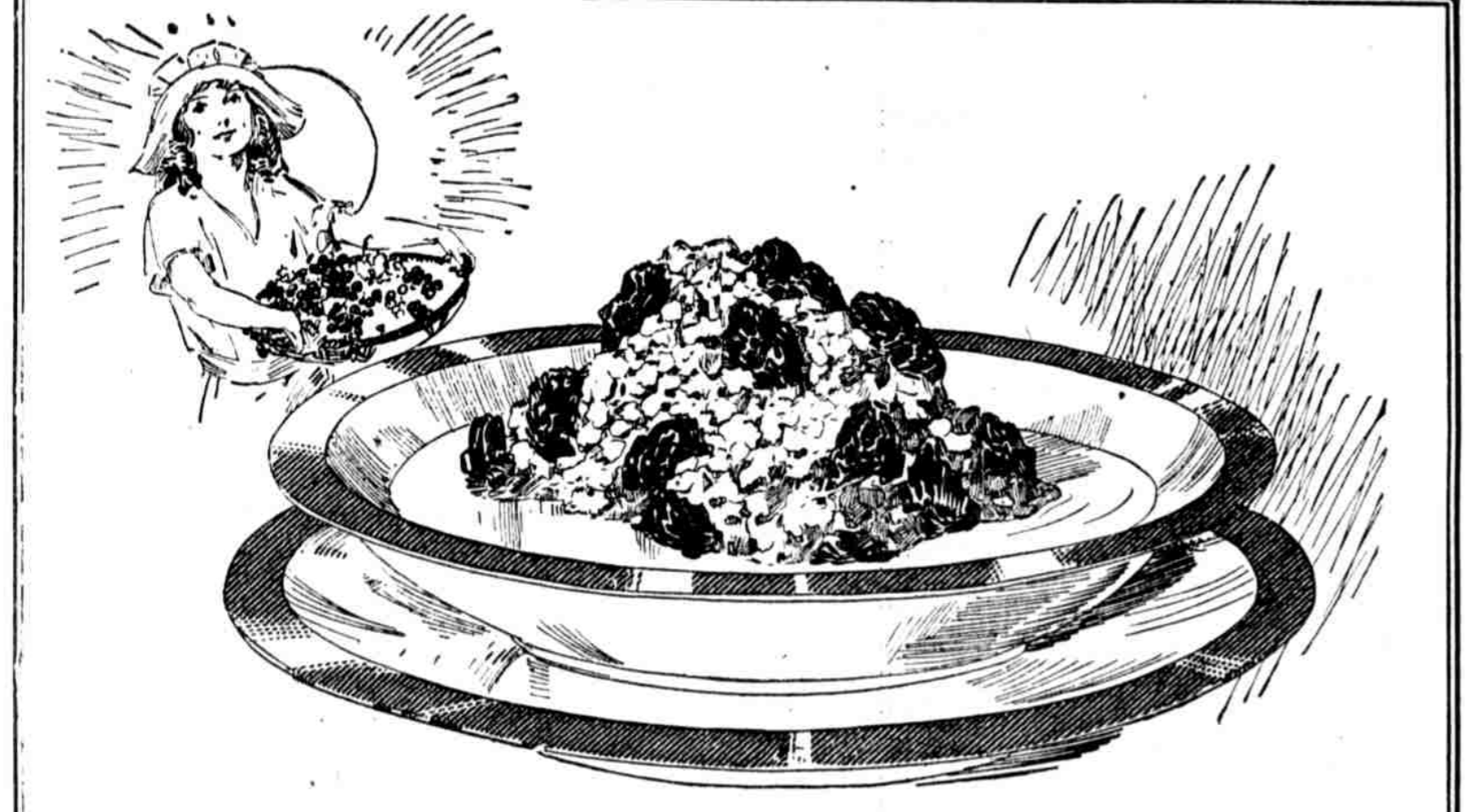
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—To increase men's energy and vim.

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Do it for the added flavor—to make oatmeal more attractive.

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Stewed Raisins

Soak raisins over night, pour water off and place in stewpan, putting in not quite enough water to cover and cook slowly for about an hour, then sugar to taste and add a bit of vanilla. Some raisins do not require much or any sugar.

What Dr. J. H. Kellogg says:
(Dr. Kellogg is head of the famous Battle Creek Sanitarium.)

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