THE STUDENT FRATERNITY MURDER

By Milton Propper

Copyright, 1932, by Milton Propper

It was Jordan's second encounter with Buckley that precipitated the fight. Toward the first of April, he learned his name was Jordan and that a game was in progress; and interrupting it, he found the two freshmen again heavy losers. This time less lenient, most of his indignation was directed against Buckley. He ordered him to stay away from the students in his dormitory and threatened to compel him to do so. And then, because he already knew of something disreputable in his past life in Vandalia—he seized him of chestnuts with loaded dice. Before he could be stopped, Jordan seized them and proved his claim that they were weighted inside. Buckley then attacked him, partly in hatred and partly in dismay at being caught; violent blows were exchanged and a minor royal might have ensued had not other occupants on the same floor been attracted by the uproar and separated the antagonists.

Randall had no idea how information of the altercation and its causes reached the college authorities. In all probability, one of the disgruntled victims of Buckley's fraud carried the tale to the executive committee. At any rate, Randall knew definitely that several days later that body began an investigation. Jordan, the only freshmen and others were summoned before it and perforce testified against Buckley; as a result, he was expelled from Aberdeen.

"Did it ever come to your ears," Rankin asked when the student concluded his recital, "that Buckley threatened Jordan? He must have considered him to blame for his disgrace."

Randall shook his head. "I suppose he did, but I couldn't say about that," he answered. "You see, as far as I'm concerned, the whole affair is history; I wasn't in the dorm at the time of the argument. I got it all from other fellows afterward and can only tell you what they told me."

"Do you know what became of Buckley between the time he left Aberdeen and turned up here?"

At the negative reply, Rankin rose and thanked the boy for his assistance; it was evident that he could give him no further information at the moment.

The detective did not make the mistake of placing too great a value as yet upon his account. True, it represented his first progress in the case and revealed a motive for Jordan's death. While it might seem rather weak to the adult point of view, a college man would be apt to consider it serious and exaggerate its gravity. And to Buckley, who was evidently something of a rogue, it would rankle and excite a bitterness more malignant than a worse injury. Particularly if, since coming to the university, the murdered boy should have again clashed with him or interfered with his pursuits. But to prove that Buckley had reason to commit the crime was not enough, if he lacked the opportunity. That problem Rankin could not deal with until he learned where the two unlikely brothers had been during the intervening days. It seemed impossible that Buckley, presumably a stranger to the ritual, was secretly less present at the ceremony.

Rankin went to the dormitory post office; and introducing himself to Mr. Thorne, in charge of sorting and distributing incoming mails, questioned him as to letters Jordan might have got. But the postmaster never had occasion to notice his particular mail. Still, he said, as the boy rented a letter box, number 267, and a correspondent, he probably received a great deal of it. He presented infinitely to watch for further communications and apprise Rankin of them.

It was three-fifteen when the detective reached the Mu Beta Sigma house. Anthony Graham opened the door for him, and Stanton, looking more harassed than ever, joined them in the hall. Before leaving headquarters, Rankin had phoned the fraternity, requesting that Larry Palmer and Ben Crawford—the two activist; the president and that they had been there since two o'clock.

Rankin apologized for his tardiness. "It took me longer than I expected to settle other details of the case. . . . Now, Mr. Stanton, if you will allow me to have the living room alone for a short while, I'll speak to them in there. Separately, of course; it is important which you send in first."

Benjamin Crawford prevented himself first—the only member of the group he had not yet met. A dapper youth, with well-rounded features, artistic eyes and short hair, his efforts to look more mature were amusing. He seated himself nonchalantly on the sofa, adopting a pseudo-sophisticated attitude to foster that impression. But neither poise nor the fine moustache he sported could conceal the fact that he was only nineteen.

"You know what I want from you, Mr. Crawford," Rankin said. "I don't have to explain, after last night, the importance of checking the movements of every one in the house. You were absent and I couldn't do it in your case. The question is, where did you spend your time yesterday evening?"

"It's an awful business, isn't it, sir?" Crawford replied without hesitation. "Poor Stuart. . . . I had a date with a girl and missed the whole thing."

"Weren't you at the initiation at all? You didn't stay a while and leave before the ceremony was over?"

The boy shook his head. "No, I went out at least fifteen minutes before the meeting started. My date was for nine o'clock, way up in Oak lane; as it takes almost an hour to get there, I left the house at eight."

"That's all that really matters," Rankin said. "Let me have your friend's name and address; as a matter of form, she will have to confirm your statement."

"But I can't," Ben Crawford returned. "That's just the trouble. I don't know where to find her or even what her name is. You see, it was a blind date in the first place . . . a pick-up, you explain the delay, Mr. Crawford?' The student's blase poise remained unruffled. "It's a rather long story, sir. I met her first, last Thursday night, out in Oak lane. I was waiting for a street car, and she came to the same way line back into town; I had been calling on another girl, who lives at 6240, north of the first station. I left her at twelve-thirty and went to the corner of Godfrey and York roads for my car. And there was this girl by herself. I don't suppose we would have got acquainted, much as I wanted to, if I hadn't caught her looking directly at me. Then, when our eyes met, she smiled as if she wouldn't mind speaking to me, either." Concisely, he fingered his mustache tentatively. "I opened up a conversation with her."

"You just couldn't help speaking to her," Rankin's lips twitched in the ghost of a smile. "And what happened then?"

"Well, I couldn't pass up anything that promising, could I? . . . Anyhow, she wasn't offended and after a while, I suggested that I might see her home. She said it was impossible that night, but if I cared to, we could fix up a date together for early this week. So we arranged to meet at nine o'clock last night at the same spot; I didn't care if I missed the initiation. But she wouldn't tell me who she was or where she lived. I asked if I could phone her in the meantime, but she promised to ring me before dinner. . . . She said that would prove the intended to me, so I gave her the first, phone number and my name . . . not my right name, of course." The boy smiled. "Not yet; just the one I always use until I'm better acquainted with the date."

"And did she actually call up on Sunday?"

"Yes, and that's why it is so peculiar," Crawford answered. "While she didn't tell me about herself, she promised faithfully to see me last night, but I never turned up; I waited at the corner a half-hour, but there wasn't a sign of her anywhere."

"She was probably indulging in some fun at your expense," Rankin commented. "Even so, that accounts for where you were until nine-thirty last night."

For the first time, the boy's aplomb was shaken and he weighed his reply. "After that I . . . I'm not sure, sir. I suppose I may as well admit I visited another girl friend of mine." He explained hesitatingly. "To tell the truth, I had been counting heavily on the date and when it fell through, I was depressed; I wanted some company to cheer me. Then I phoned this girl for permission to drop in, and she agreed to my visiting her."

"When was this?" the detective asked, what time was it, Mr. Crawford?"

"I called her as soon as I got back to town again; that was ten-ten. This girl lived in the opposite direction, in South Philly, and I had to return to town anyway to go to her apartment. That took three-quarters of an hour and I arrived at half past ten." The young man plucked nervously at his moustache. "But . . . but I can't give you any more information about her," he declared.

"You can't?" Rankin demanded bluntly. "Why not? You mean you won't?"

"Well . . . I . . ." Crawford floundered. "I don't want to get her into trouble. You see, I . . . I was with her till morning; I spent the night there." A flush of embarrassment and relief took face. "If that should come out, it would be awkward; she'd probably lose her job and it wouldn't look any too nice for me, either."

"There isn't the slightest danger her name will figure in this affair," Rankin stated emphatically. "My only interest is you, Mr. Crawford, is in tracing your movements last night. As long as this girl can prove you were in her company, I am not a bit concerned with your conduct, otherwise. Anyhow, if necessary, I could keep her identity through your fraternity brothers. They could list your friends and then it would only be a matter of elimination."

"Oh, I'd rather tell you myself. Her name is Florence Dalton and she is a graduate at the university hospital here. Her place in South Philadelphia is a two-room apartment at 4020 Hansen street; she occupies it alone."

"Thank you, Mr. Crawford," the detective rose. "I think that is all I want to ask at the present. Will you please have Mr. Palmer come in next?"

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

Prepare Soil Now For Bulb Plants

Now is the time to prepare the soil for tulips, daffodils or Jonquils, and hyacinths. All of these bulbs like a good well-drained loamy soil of the garden type.

In preparing a place for the bulbs the soil should be spaded to a depth of 12 to 15 inches and cultivated until a good seed-bed is prepared. If the place selected for the bulbs is of stiff clay that does not have a good drainage, remove the soil to a depth of 15 to 18 inches and place in bottom of crushed rock or gravel in the bottom of the pit. This will provide the necessary drainage. To the stiff clay soil add 10 to 15 per cent sand and a little well-rotted cow manure. Mix the sand, manure and soil thoroughly. Fill the pit until it is 4 to 6 inches above the level of the surrounding ground, as it will settle about that much.

If the soil is prepared now and allowed to settle when the bulbs are set the last of September or the middle of October they should be in ideal condition to receive the bulbs.

Either order or buy bulbs now or have to be sure and have them on hand in plenty of time to set them not later than October 15.

The Kentucky College of Agriculture at Lexington has a multigraph sheet on "Bulbs," giving detailed information about their planting, also as well as the varieties and colors. This sheet is free for the asking.

50 YEARS IN BASEBALL

Tuesday, September 12 marked a notable baseball anniversary, for on that date Connie Mack, Philadelphia, universally known as "Connie Mack," began his career in the game.

A half century ago Connie Mack began his baseball career as a gangling kid catcher" with an East Brookfield, Mass., team. He then played with the late Meredith Hartford, and with Washington team of the old National League. After six years with the Pittsburgh Pirates, during which he acquired the name, aged the Milwaukee club four years, and finally settled down with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1901.

And what a record he has made as manager of the Athletics! Nine league pennants and five world championships. In 1914 his team had become so superior that he declared he could break it up and still build another team of new material. He came back 15 years later to win three American League pennants in a row and two world's series.

Many baseball fans always appreciated the ability of his own players, he concedes that the greatest players were not always the ones he picks Matthewson as the greatest pitcher, and Ty Cobb as the best all around player of all time.

ABOUT THE FARM

(Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.)

A poor year on western ranges and no great increase in sheep numbers in the native lamb crop make the outlook promising now for Kentucky sheep farmers. So far as a margin of lambs is concerned, Kentucky farmers should be in a position to realize a good profit. The demand for feeder lambs will depend on business and agricultural conditions.

Temperatures from 75 to 90 degrees and a relative humidity of about 45 degrees make favorable conditions for the first stage of the bacon curing. Either low or very high temperatures and low humidity cause the meat to dry out in the first stage of curing the same temperature may be maintained during the entire time it should be lowered to 60 to 65.

The above-ground individual storage house is gaining favor in many parts of the state. It may be built of frame or masonry construction, but it is properly insulated and ventilated. The Experiment Station at Lexington can furnish blueprints of this type of storage house.

A well-built poultry house will be a worth-while improvement on many farms. Poultry will do best in well housed. Pullets will soon be ready for the laying house and a good house will save costly feed and increase the number of winter eggs. The kind that bring good prices. Buy a county agent for poultry house plans.

A 10-gallon crock will hold about 30 pounds of cabbage for making kraut. If a keg is used, be sure it is clean and free from rust. Rust might give an undesirable flavor to the kraut. Thorough washing with soda water, scalding with boiling water and exposure to the sunlight may be necessary. Some housewives line the keg with large cabbage leaves.

Giving aid to Cuba has already cost more than 6,000 American lives.

After Ben Crawford left the room, his features were a deep study and his eyes held a questioning, dissatisfied look. For, despite the tale he had just heard, he still harbored a suspicion whether the thirty-second person at the initiation was a fraternity member or no intruder. And the reason to doubt the boy or suspect him of lying; nor grounds for criticism him with the crime. Nevertheless, he could still have overlooked some detail the night before, provided that he managed to establish unbroken right after Jordan collapsed. That occurred at twenty-five minutes after three-forths of an hour before Crawford's phone call to Miss Dalton at ten to one. Ample time for all of these persons to have committed the murder.

Rankin realized, failed to settle his whereabouts decisively.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

THE GARDEN

THE GARDEN INVENTORY I.

(By John S. Gardner, Kentucky College of Agriculture.)

At the close of the year, merchants and other business men take inventory to see where they stand. At inventory time, are analyzed practices that have been followed with a view to their final adoption or their further improvement.

A garden is fundamentally a business proposition, and it is safe to say that although there are satisfactions in having a good garden besides the consideration that home-grown vegetables are lower in price and more satisfactory in quality than those purchased, a garden must pay. Whether it does or not depends on careful planning, for in a better-planned garden more physical work must be done than in one in which each activity has been carefully thought out beforehand.

In the main, very few gardens in Kentucky passed returning some satisfaction. True, in some sections of the state, the season was unfriendly. In the early spring there was too much rain to permit cultivation and frequently seeds were planted and plants were set in cloddy soil, and, after a rain was the case in some sections, the rains suddenly ceased, it was impossible to add silty-prepared gardens to drought. Nothing can be done about the weather, however, so hope for a better season next year.

Some gardeners were obliged to use soil that was unsuited for good tilling, in the first place, further they were not in position to improve it by spreading manure or other material to make the soil more water-holding capacity and its workability. Still others failed to apply the right kind and the means for enhancing it by adding fertilizers. They found themselves in this situation, will, it is hoped, be able to improve next year by adding manure.

In many gardens, insects ran riot. Without wanting to seem blunt, there is no occasion for such a state of affairs. There are preventives that cannot be controlled. The fight is not always won, to be sure, but with proper materials and using proper methods, any insect can be controlled. Bees will not be stopped. While it is true that the bee is the best of all pollinators, with a complete array of applying-devices than without, the simplest apparatus can be made to do nicely.

Many gardens the weeds took the lead. Some gardeners attempted to just such a garden, but he knows that if the weeds have been controlled in a systematic and determined manner, his story would have been different. Other gardeners, so affected, know the same. These may readily deal with the help that this bulletin treats will presently give them; they may start next year with a clean slate and a clean garden, and keep their weeds in check.

Many gardeners were disappointed in the behavior of their vegetables because they were not careful enough in their selection of varieties. Some localities make a choice of varieties is not possible, but in many it is and buying is profit until the last minute. Gardeners who know they need seed should buy their seed early this year. Those who have failed to do so before the rush of spring planting their operations early, should be sure to acquire their seedlings of the varieties they want. Good seedsmen make it their business to have in stock what is wanted, but they must know in time. There is danger in waiting until the last minute to buy seed.

Before a storm, cows stop their grazing and lie down in the pasture. Sheep are always restless before a storm and make a good deal of noise and the young lambs are unusually playful, frolicking at their mothers' pasture.

Among the feathered-folk, one can also see the signs of storm. Ducks and geese splash their heads in pools or ponds where they swim, often showing only their tails and bills of their heads above the water-line.

Fowls stay close to their homes instead of scattering about and feeding. Birds may be seen sitting on the branches, busily oiling their feathers with their beaks, thus getting a water-proof coating.

In the insect world, spiders never build new webs before a storm but either eat the old web and hide under the leaves or the bark of trees, or leave the old web unmended and until the storm is over. Bees will not leave the hive, often flying against each other, it is the sign of a storm.

In the flower world the pimpernel, morning glories, the chickweed and others plants close their flowers before a rain, while if the blossoms are expanded, no matter how dull-full the sky looks, it is sure to be fine. Nine people in ten can tell the stars or hastiness or circle around the moon generally means a storm. The percolator look in the sky when the sun is "drawing water," that is when you see the sun's rays streaming down through the clouds, means rain, as does a ring around the moon.

All these and many more signs speak a language to the country-wise and generations have studied nature and her ways.—Christian Science Monitor.

PLEASANT DREAMS

"That lawyer of mine has nerve," "Why so?"

"Listen to this item in his bill: 'For waking up in the night and thinking over your case, $5.00'."

FROM OVER THE LINE

(J. W. Rogers)

Nicholas county citizenry may well afford to occasionally recall some important facts connected with her history. Here are some:

a. Nicholas county was established in 1799. Composed of parts of Mason and Bourbon counties. Named for Col. George Nicholas. Attorney General and friend of Henry Clay and Isaac Shelby.

b. Low water mark in Licking river at Lower Blue Licks is 566 feet above sea level.

c. Among famous Kentuckians who became Governor of other states are: Hon. William O. Bradley, of Nicholas county, appointed Governor of Nebraska (Territory) 1837 to 1861. d. Thomas H. Metcalfe, of Nicholas county, was Governor of Kentucky in 1828, and a member of Congress in 1840.

e. Robert McIntire, in 1802, was Nicholas county's first member of the Kentucky legislature. Hon. Hanson, in 1811, first Senator, in the General Assembly of Kentucky.

f. Hon. Hansen Kennedy was a member of the last General Assembly of Confederate from Nicholas county, 1901-2, which framed our present Constitution of Kentucky.

g. Foremost to tourists, among things of interest, is the Blue Licks battlefield, where a bold band of American pioneers were defeated and practically annihilated in one of the bloodiest battles ever fought between Whites and Indians, in Kentucky, Aug. 19, 1782.

h. When roads began to be built in Kentucky, our Maysville and Lexington road was the first, further to Florence, Ala. Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay built that road.

A Joke On Henry Clay

While Henry Clay was Secretary of State under President John Q Adams, Thomas Marshall, of Fayette county was a member of Congress. During this period Clay and Marshall were rivals for votes in Washington City in Metcalfe's carriage. While passing through the state of Pennsylvania, Clay told Metcalfe that he had received a letter from almost certain town which they were approaching, he would be found to be a friend of the citizens who had never seen him. Just before reaching the town, Metcalfe had been instructing, asked Clay to take the reins in his hands, as he himself was tired. Clay did so and Metcalfe took a back seat. On reaching the town, they were met by a large concourse of people. Metcalfe quickly alighted from the carriage and was as quickly asked by the people if he was Mr. Clay. He answered that he was, and that he was very glad to meet them, as he had long desired to see the citizens who had never seen him. Just before reaching the town, Metcalfe had been instructing