

of surveying the outside world with an air of puzzled wonderment. Fallon succinctly conveys his impressions of Weidman by describing him as "a calm, slightly sentimental young man who was finding life a somewhat perplexing situation. . . . All in all a charming companion, a figure to grace almost any company".

Taking a brief glance at the series of mysterious and sinister events which directed the attention of the French Surete to the exploits of this demon, we are presented first of all, with the unexplained disappearance in July 1937 of Jean de Koven, an attractive young American dancer who had been spending a holiday in the French capital. Investigations by the Surete throughout France and a part of Europe failed to reveal her whereabouts much to the distress of relatives.

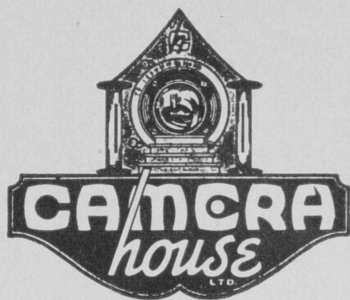
One night in September of the same year the body of Joseph Couffy, a Paris chauffeur who specialized in long-distance hire trips, was discovered in a ditch adjoining the main highway at Lamotte-Beuvron. His car had been stolen and his murderer had vanished completely without leaving a clue to his identity.

Not quite a month later, Janine Keller, a respectable married woman from Strasbourg appeared in Paris to answer an advertisement requesting the services of a trained nurse, kept an appointment with her prospective employers in a hotel, and afterwards vanished without trace.

Roger Leblond, a young publicity agent and small-time impressario in show business, was the fourth victim on the killer's list. His dead body was discovered on October 16 in the back of his car in an unfrequented street in Neuilly, a suburb of Notre-Dame. As in the case of the other crimes there was neither witnesses nor clues.

In the face of mounting public alarm the Paris police caught wind on November 22 of yet another baffling disappearance: that of Fritz Frommer, a young German refugee from the Nazis, who had been residing with relatives in Paris.

Crime No. 6 eventually gave the Surete their first formidable break. When Raymond Lesobre, a real estate agent dealing in high class residential property was found murdered in an empty villa in the prosperous Saint-Cloud district of Paris, it was noticed that he had met his death by a bullet fired at close range into the nape of his neck. This was precisely the manner in which Joseph Couffy and Roger Leblond had apparently been eliminated. On the face of it, it appeared that the motive in the case of Leblond and Lesobre had been robbery since in both instances the victims were found with their pockets rifled. Another striking similarity among the crimes was that in more than one case the murderer had made off with his victim's car, so it was probable that somewhere in or near Paris, perhaps at the bottom of the Seine or hidden away in a rural bush, there was concealed evidence of great importance. The point of special significance was that



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