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# THE CASE-BOOK OF A PRIMATE DETECTIVE

Inside History of the Methods Employed in Criminal Investigation, Embracing True Narratives of Interesting Cases by a Former of Operative of the William J. Burns Detective Agency.

1-MY FIRST CASE "Getting" the Man Who Hung a Jury

(Editor's Note:—In order that no an-noyance may accrue through the publica-tion of these narratives to persons involvtherein, other names and places have many instances been substituted for

Up to the day that the manager of the New York office of the Burns Detective Agency handed me an order for \$50 expense money and started me yearning or intention to become a deof work, almost broke—in New York! any money?" had a family to support and, most important of all, I happened to have met the celebrated detective who is him, wrote out an order on the cashthe head of the agency by which I ier for \$50 and handed it to me. came to be employed, the largest repntable private detective agency in the country. That was why I became, and am, a private detective.

One morning I found myself at 42d newspaper bulletins and wondering port cover all your time." how long my money would last and where in the world I should turn for a job. One of the bulletins read: "Detective Burns Nates More Bri-

the office manager. I was desperate. I said: "I know him, and I want a job."

"Do you know anything about the match, do you?" newspaper business?

"Have you a large number of ac-"Fill that out," said the office man-

ager. He had not even asked me if I wanted to become a detective, and but for the last questions on the blank I would not have known that he was going there?" considering me as an applicant for such a position.

"I've never done any detective work

When it was filled out he took it and disappeared again. He was back of buying a place up there you want in three minutes.

"There's a man up in Peeksville (a know he's right." small town on the Hudson river near New York), who hung the jury in a damage suit. Want you to go up and get him. Here's the dope."

He began to read from the papers in his hand. The gist of it was that one Kellner, a New York contractor, had done \$100,000 worth of work on of Peeksville. When the time came friend, and by the time we neared our the water supply system of the town of Peeksville. When the time came for him to render his bill he had been approached by one of the town's political powers, Bruley by name, and commissioner of public works, who let it be known that if he would make out a bill for \$130,000, it would be allowed in full without protest or questions.

and on the second, and the third, and on every hallot for the next twenty-looked at half a dozen little houses. estate agent.

"That's the man you've got to get," town was to my liking. said the office manager. "He did the For the next two days he spent

mentioning. He drew a pink pad to strain.

"You can get a train every hour on the even hour. Here are some report forms. Write a full report of your do- chief was in his private office with my I came to Peeksville, he came up t ings every day and mail it every even- reports on his desk before him. street and Broadway, looking at the ing. Don't forget to make your re-

That was how I entered this busi-That bulletin did the trick.

The may remember me," I thought, "and he may know of a job to fit me."

The may remember me," I thought, "and he may know of a job to fit me."

The trick means before 1 out there and you had to leave. The time, he said. By while won the chief, cago authorities, and you picked out had not been questioned; but here I peeksville as a likely place to hide been in any trouble if it hadn't been to the chief. The time, he said. By while won the chief, are keeping out of sight of the Chillet me alone. First it's one thing she's nagging about, then another. I'd never been in any trouble if it hadn't been the chief. I went straight down town to the was handed \$50, sent out on what in. You understand, don't you?" office of the agency of which the big seemed to me like a complicated case man is the head and asked if he was of detective work, and being calmly

quaintances, and can you keep your him. As I accepted the match and coming here." occupation from your friends and ac- prepared to light my pipe I stuck my

genially.

"Thought not," said my friend. "I "Thought not," said my friend. "I The next day I did the same thing. "Had I given him a change to talk know everybody there. Peeksville is ouldn't have you. Fill out the a mighty nice little place." He looked my door.

"Thought not," said my friend. "I The next day I did the same thing. In the evening there was a knock at the might have spouted out his whole story on the train going down to the wouldn't have you. Fill out the a mighty nice little place." He looked my door. me over. I was prosperous looking. "Say," he said, "if you're thinking

> Donlin was the man I was after. I pretended to misunderstand the name.

"Donlin," he corrected. "Harry Donlin. I'll introduce you to him if you wish when we get up there."

I did my best to get on a friendly

four hours. He had hung the jury, was not particularly impressed with piece of business on my part, and that and the case was a mis-trial. The any of them, or at least pretended not it is the best thing you can do. Even man's name was Harry Donlin, a real to be. There was one that I told Don-

up the Hudson river on my first man ever since. We've got to have a full money proving to me that he was heip some. My advice is that you do hunt, I had never done anything in my life that might have been suspecting the reconstruction of the reconstru ed of even remotely resembling detecting and sworn to, or told in the hear-day he was calling me by my first tive work. I probably knew as little ing of at least two people: who gave about the business as anybody in the him the bribe, when, and what for was an easy-going, not over-brilliant country, and I had never had any And we've got to get it in a hurry, too. Irishman, who apparently was afraid because the new trial is coming on ever to become entirely sober, and But I was 36 years old, out in less than a month. Have you got who never wanted to be without a congenial companion to talk to. He left him I managed to alip the letter I didn't have enough to be worth was plainly living under a great On the third day a letter from the

office directed me to come in to the "Get up there right away," he said. New York office that evening. "Go in and see the chief," said the office manager when I reported. The later. One day just three weeks after

about a greeting, "you're showing considerable speed for a big fellow. I wife. And through that I "got" my ness. I had been accustomed to see guess you'd better begin to do the man. I had won his confidence; ing things move with businesslike ex- crook stall right away. You're from trusted me even before his wife. pediency in other offices, but this beat | Chicago. You got into a little trouble all records. Thirty minutes before I out there and you had to leave. You the time," he said. "My wife won't

told to get a full confession from a natural blabber, who'll talk if you get "What do you want of him?" asked man I knew no more about than about close to him. You have got a good \$2,500 worth. And now she starts start by pretending to be looking for "They are just trying me out to see a house. Now, tomorrow you stall how I act," I thought, as I took the about being afraid of going out so out. I quit. I just walked out, and "They are just trying me out to see a house. Now, tomorrow you stall He looked me over, went into an money order. So I said: "All right. much; keep under cover, Stay in your she'll whistle another tune before inner office for a while, and reappeared, bearing an application blank.

The office, and everything in it, was just as it would be in an up-to-date

I caught a three o'clock train on the late of the business office. The business of the place might as well have been selling the smoking car. Across the aisle it out of you that you're hiding, and insurance as hunting criminals. The lolled a tall, lanky, good-natured young that you cleaned up big on a crooked application blank had all the conven-tional questions of such a paper, and in front of him, showed that he was written to you from the Chicago of going to Peeksville, my destination. fice. Lose this letter where your man ting kind of tired of this place my "Were you ever acquainted with On the chance that he lived in the will find and read it, and your stall

ticket in the seat before us, where he next day I stayed in my room. I had

The next day I did the same thing.

'Who is it?" I demanded, sharply. "All right," he said, sitting down at his desk and picking up some papers.
"There's a man up in Peeksville (a known between the conversation and leading a moment I opened the door a little, looked out, as if to the conversation away to other sub-assure myself that it was Donlin, and lects. As soon as we reached New let him in. He looked at me curiously.

"You aren't sick, are you?" he said. "No," I said. "I just stayed in my room; that's all."

He kept looking at me steadily. "Anything gone wrong?" he said.
"Oh, no," I said. "No, I just got tired of showing myself-of running

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or else get his money and keep quiet. He said: 'Give me my money; that's all I care about.' I then told him that he was mistaken when he said the amount you had got was \$38,000. I said that you had got less than \$25,-000, and that in moving around the country you had spent \$3,000, so all (Copyright, 1912, by International Press Bureau.)

(Editor's Note:—In order that no an
(Editor's Note:—In order that no an
(Editor's Note:—In order that no an-Peeksyille.

We drove through the town and if he gets back \$22,000.

lin might do-if I decided that the show him up for what he is, he is going to show you up, and you'll be trick, and he's been spending money about half of his time and some of his 000 you clean up \$16,000; which will "Don't forget to burn this.

> Donlin took me buggy riding to look at another house that afternoon. We were chums by this time. When I without the envelope, into the seat where I had been sitting without being observed

"Your brothe

I never saw or heard of that lette again, but Donlin found it and read it and it did its work, as I discovered "Well," he said, without troubling fluence of liquor than usual, and told me that he had quarrelled with his

"That's been my whole trouble all for her. She's always hollering about "I'm to pose as a crook?"

"Certainly. This man Donlin is a Weil, here a short time ago I had a asking me where I got the money I'm

The truth was that his wife was disgusted over his drinking. "Skip out for a couple days and let her cool down," I suggested. "I tell you what let's do; let's take a night boat up to Albany and hang around

there for a couple of days. I'm getself. What do you say?" any police force, or any detective agency? Are you acquainted with any police officials, or any one employed by detective agencies?

"I'll go you," he said. "I don't begins to show any inclination to tell you his own secrets, at first tell him and read it, and begins to show any inclination to tell you his own secrets, at first tell him you his own secrets, at first tell him you don't want to hear them; that it was not until later that I knew you on there, you understand; what part they were playing in our want to have one of our friends on you," and Burns "You've got the want to have one of our friends on you," and Burns "You've got the want to have one of our friends on you," and Burns "You've got the want to have one of our friends on you."

city. That was all that was troubling "Donlin," came the answer. "What's him; he needed somebody to whom the matter, old man? Feeling sick?" he could fell the story of his crime. assure myself that it was Donlin, and jects. As soon as we reached New York I made a pretext of calling up to find at what time the boats left, and called up the office and told the ling a measiy little twenty-five hunger to me and says: 'Say, Donlin, don't frightened the politicians at Peekstoff to me and says: 'Say, Donlin, don't ville into acknowledging Contractor forget you're one of us now. You've ing a measiy little twenty-five hungot to deliver the goods.' whole situation.

"Well," said the m nager in a casual sort of way, "we ought to get him tonight on the boat. I'll reserve a stateroom for you on the C. W. Morse, of the Hudson Line. You just hold been steered up against it and thrown

street, and when you can be the behavior of 18 100, and that I possess a certain unitary of the street to have as friendly glass of the playing parts in any you can be latest to have as friendly glass of the playing parts in any you can be latest to have as friendly glass of the way of magering \$25,000 of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the early of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of fingering \$25,000 of the cylindrated When he range of the way of the expensive the cylindrated When he range of the way of the cylindrated When he range of the way of the cylindrated When he range of the contract has been awarded when he states of the way of the contract has been awarded of the way of the contract has been awarded to contract has

drew his attention first, then said:
"You don't happen to have an extra match, do you?"
"Sure," he said, and began to dig. I crossed over and sat down beside him. As I accepted the match and straightful for the said.

The said of the said:

You don't want to hear them; that how to hand he knows thow to have one of our friends on two chances. One is to make us put that jury. We're glad of the chance you in prison for accepting a bribe; Ton't talk to me about that, Harry, and the one of talk I interrupted. "The one who knows building with two entrances before him. As I accepted the match and the match and the next they were playing in our two chances. One is to make us put two chances. One is to make us put that jury. We're glad of the chance you in prison for accepting a bribe; Ton't talk to me about that, Harry, of before I began the line of talk I had decided upon. I began to curse what that means. To be frank, that's want to have one of our friends on two chances. One is to make us put two chances. One is to make us put to have you on because we know to have one of our friends on that jury. We're glad of the chance you in prison for accepting a bribe; Ton't talk to me about that, Harry, of before I began the line of talk I had decided upon. I began to curse what that means. To be frank, that's want to have one of our friends on two chances. One is to make us put two chances. One is to make us put two chances. One is to make us put to how that jury. We're glad of the chance you in prison for accepting a bribe; that jury want to have one of our friends on two chances. One is to make us put two chances of the chance you in prison for accepting a bribe; that jury want to have put the put that I knew you on there, you on there, you on there, y

I looked at him and knew he had velope to you?" I asked.

"Didn't you see them slip the en-

read the letter.

"I'll come through with about \$16, into my pocket and winked and slapped it into my pocket and winked and winked and slapped it into my pocket through this worry again for ten times it. Well, they got me accepted for that much." the jury all right. Then Bruley comes "Hell," he growled. "And you're to me and says: 'Say, Donlin, don't the jury all right. Then Bruley comes

because over and sat down beside him. As I accepted the match and prepared to light my pipe I stuck my prepared to light my pipe I stuck my ticket in the seat before us, where he could not fall to see it.

"Going to Peeksville, too?" he said, genially.

"Yes," I said, puffing away. "You going there?"

"York on the next train and hang around there today and go up the lim would hear about my strange conduct.

"No," I answered.

"The next day I did the same thing.

"The next day I did the same thing.

"I went back to Peeksyille, and the weren't right a home."

"Yes, but take my case here," he wife, and everybody that I could think of. I played the part of a whimperer to a finish.

"If they'd only stuck by me in the own that I would never been in any troubles, and now that I'm in they're throwing me down. Well, there's one satisfaction:

"Only a little more than a month ago." he said. "Just three days before the match and there'll be a little evelope to do; so to jail, or come on our side?"

"I take my case here," he wife, and there'll be a little evelope to do; so the firm, white, my assumed there'll be a little evelope to a finish.

"If they'd only stuck by me in the protested. "I'm' will one there in word a white two could not all to could the same thing."

"If they'd only stuck by me in the protein to a finish.

"If they'd only stuck by me in the protein to a finish.

"If they'd only stuck by me in the protein to a finish.

"Only a li and there was the envelope-with expressed the universal curiosity oven detective work. He looked up in amazement at the Chief and said:

"Well! How in the devil did your ever do it?" later, when Donlin's confession had will, said the m nager in a cas and going around with everybody susright. The other eleven men wanted ours there had been a stenographer with his ear to a dictagraph al! the the hearing of three people.

"That was just a piece of bull-

headed luck, wasn't it?" I asked Chief "Oh, no," he said. "We had tried five other men on him before you; would take to and blab his head off.