

The Treasure in Breezy Lake

1. A Night Visitor

At quarter to three one afternoon, the door of the local police station burst open and an elderly woman stormed in.

‘Sergeant, you must come with me at once. All my jewellery was stolen last night.’

‘I’m afraid I must ask you to take a seat for a moment, madam,’ said Sergeant Shorthouse, turning back to the Black Hand Gang, with a document in his hand. ‘... “we then told the police that the case containing the forged stamps had been lowered down the well.” Is that correct?’ The Black Hand Gang nodded. ‘Then sign the statement, please.’

‘Is there no one here you can send, Sergeant?’ the woman interrupted from her corner.

‘I’m afraid that everyone is out at the moment, madam. May I have your name?’

‘Ida Partridge – Mrs – I’m a widow.’

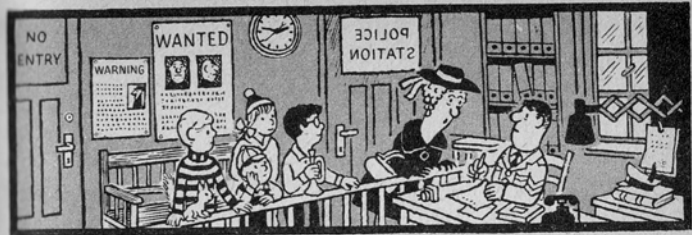
‘Well, first you must make out a formal complaint.’

When Mrs Partridge left the police station some ten minutes later, the Black Hand Gang was waiting for her on the steps.

Frank said, ‘Don’t worry, Mrs Partridge, we’ll help you.’

Then they all went off to view the scene of the crime.

‘What a dreadful mess he’s made,’ said Angela, ‘but at least we know exactly what time he was here.’



How did the gang know when the burglary had taken place?

2. A Clue on the Roof

Angela said. 'The burglar was probably looking for a safe.'

Mrs Partridge handed round a packet of fruit gums.

Ralph added: 'He must have come in by the balcony window – look, one of the panes is broken.'

The Black Hand Gang went out on to the balcony to search for clues.

'Not the smallest trace,' said Ralph. He peered at the edge of the roof through his magnifying glass.

'Our cat burglar must have climbed over the roof,' Frank remarked.

Keith W.S. stroked his squirrel and murmured, as he put it on the roof, 'Here's a job for you, little friend.'

After a few seconds the squirrel began scratching in the gutter, then picked up something in its paws.

Ralph shouted, 'It's a cinema ticket. Here's our first clue.'

Angela, twitching her plaits, asked: 'Which film had he been to see?'

The Black Hand Gang bought a newspaper on their way back to the Airport and looked at the cinema advertisements. It wasn't an easy task. Frank was the first to work it out.

'He chose the right film,' he said, doubling up with laughter.

What was the film called?



Bill Day Presents
THE SNOW MONSTER
Sensational Film
18.30 21.00
GLORY PALACE
Brille Square, Tel. 25203

Jean Benton
Bob Taylor
Good Evening
My Lord!

URANIA R
Tel. 47812
WILCHESTER STREET

ATHENIUM, Tel. 37123
The Moon, 18.00, 21.00
Per Parkway Road

7-STUDIO
19.15
20.30
Well nate
RAT
FILM

SAVOY CINEMA. Showing at
18.30 & 21.00. The Cowboys.
Long Eaton Street. Tel. 32111

TIVOLI. Canal St. Tel. 27090.
16.00, 18.30, 21.00. Festival
of Sport. Closed on Sunday.

CRYSTAL PALACE, George
Steel in Night of Terror. A
18.15, 20.45, King St. Tel. 28379

Anita Rushwell and Fabian Strong in a breath-taking film
* Super Cinema *
Metropol
THE CLOCK STRUCK TWELVE
16.00, 18.30, 20.45
Royal Square, Tel. 31121

90min of
* HORROR *
Victim of Frankenstein
18.15 20.45
CINEMA PALACE, Stirling St.
16.00, 18.30, 21.00. Tel. 27338

Don't Count Your Chickens
U Cartoon, 18.30, 21.00, Tel. 21307

PICTURE HOUSE, Central St.
The Adventures of Fred
Fox. U. 18.30 only. Tel. 27739

NEW ASTORIA, Vine Grove.
Comedy Capers. All star
cast. 18.00, 20.00 Tel. 24187

16.00
18.30
21.00
The Indian
Chief
BIG CHIEF EAGLE EYE
Town Hall Square

Mr. X
in Paris
Pierre Cardin
Mimi Duval
HIPPIE
Telephone: Central 57620

7th May
FILM TIMETABLE
out of duty. it like that
leaves a m talks to the

3. The Other Side

██████████ was the title of the film. Angela turned the ticket over. 'Look at this!' she exclaimed. The Gang read it out in unison: '... aser'.

'It must be part of someone's name,' said Frank. 'He must have booked his seat in advance.'

'He's probably a regular cinema-goer,' added Angela, hopefully.

The following evening the Black Hand Gang went to the cinema and loitered by the ticket office, hoping that someone would eventually ask for 'aser's' tickets. The sole result was that the commissioner came to shoo them away.

'But we're the Black Hand Gang,' said Angela.

'Not the gang the newspapers were talking about the other day...'

'Yes, we're the ones,' said Angela proudly.

So the commissioner was only too pleased to let them stay.

Three evenings later their luck was in. A man and a woman in motor-cycle gear came up to the ticket window.

'Tickets for Fraser?' the man asked. The commissioner managed to get four seats in the front row for the Black Hand Gang.

'We must stay close to our suspects,' said Frank. 'Did anyone notice which seats they took?'

After about half an hour Keith W.S. said: 'There they are.'

Which row were the suspects in?



4. Mobile Unit

Once the Black Hand Gang had spotted the motorcyclists sitting in the [REDACTED], they slipped out of the cinema and held an urgent conference outside.

'We must find out where Fraser lives,' said Ralph.

Angela asked: 'How are we going to do that?'

'We'll follow him on our bikes.'

The Black Hand Gang separated to cover the three exits. Frank stood guard over the car park. At about half past ten the audience began to stream out, and a few minutes later came Frank's trumpet signal.

They pedalled off furiously, swept round the corner into East Street in the wake of the motor-cycle. Fraser accelerated away, though, and the Black Hand Gang lost him in the side streets. They could still hear the throbbing of his engine, but then the noise suddenly stopped.

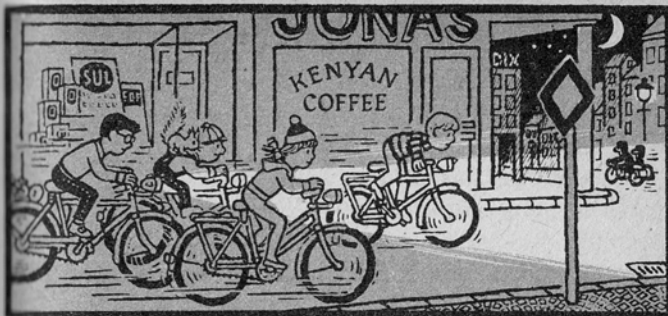
'He can't be far,' called Frank. 'Let's go and look for the motor-cycle. Its number is PXE 1314.'

They soon found it parked in front of Number 28, Windmill Street. The Black Hand Gang looked for Fraser's name on the nameplates beside the street door.

'Bother,' said Angela. 'Fraser isn't here.'

Just then Frank strolled up, looking very pleased with himself.

'Fraser does live here,' he said. 'I've seen his name.'



Where had Frank seen the name?

5. The Locked Door

Frank had seen the name ██████████ near by.

'Well,' said Angela, 'let's go and brave the wolf in his den.'

'Let's wait till daylight,' Frank suggested.

When they came back to Windmill Street the next morning, the motor-cycle had disappeared. They went into the house and found Fraser's flat up in the attic. Ralph rang the bell. No one answered. Frank tried to look through the keyhole, but it was blocked.

'Let me try,' said Angela, and she waggled the door-handle. The door was locked, but they heard a voice calling: 'I'm ill in bed. Please go away and leave me in peace.'

Ralph had already taken his special penknife with its seventeen different attachments out of his pocket and was unscrewing the handle. He pulled it off and pushed it through the other side, so that he had a peep hole. He put his eye to it and whispered to the others, 'The bed's empty.'

Angela had a look, too, and said: 'Fraser isn't there, but I know where his voice is coming from.'



Where was Fraser's voice coming from?

6. The Bird Flies the Nest

Fraser's voice had come from [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] 'He's gone away,' said Angela. 'What are we going to do now?'

'We know the number of his motor-cycle,' said Ralph.
'That's no use,' Keith W.S. said, cracking a hazelnut for his squirrel.

'Look here,' Frank said, 'we're not giving up as easily as that. We'll keep looking, all of us.'

Days went by. The Black Hand Gang searched streets, backyards, car parks, but found no trace. They began to comb the surrounding villages, too, but Fraser and his motor-cycle had completely vanished.

Ralph was ready to give up the search when Fate took a hand. One afternoon as they were riding round the countryside Frank suddenly braked hard.

'Look, there,' he shouted.

Half hidden in the bushes was the motor-cycle with the PXE 1314 number plate.

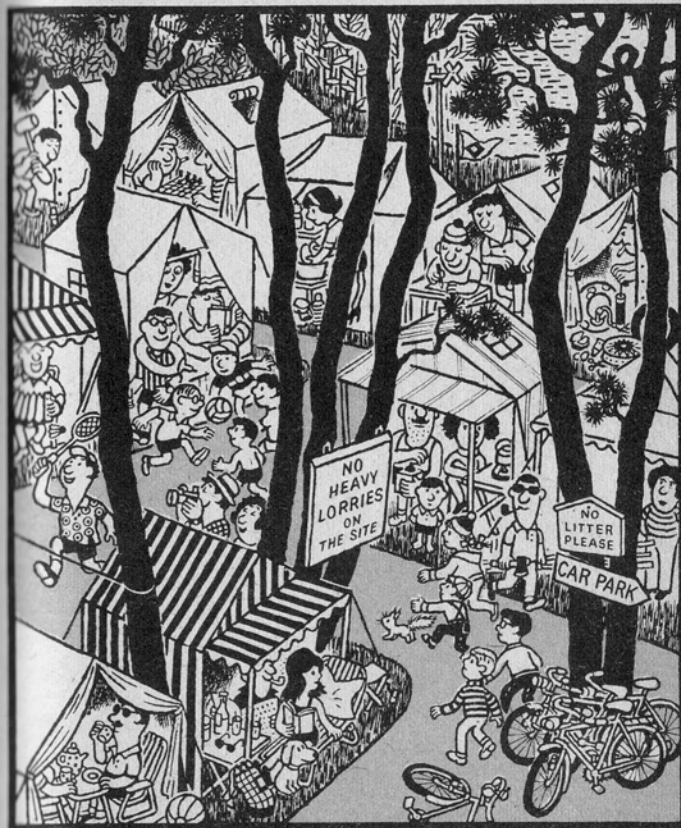
'The rear wheel is missing,' Angela noticed.

'And where is its rider?' asked Keith W.S. 'He must be near here.'

The Gang looked around.

'Come on!' exclaimed Frank, running towards a nearby camp site. It was only a matter of seconds before he pointed towards one of the tents.

'That's our man. See what he's doing.'



What was Fraser doing?

7. Frogmen

Fraser was [REDACTED]. But what on earth was he doing in a camping site near Breezy Lake?

'Do you think he realized that we were following him?' suggested Ralph.

'Anyhow, we must keep a close watch on him from now on,' said Frank.

They settled down on a small hill from which they could observe Fraser's tent unseen. For two hours nothing stirred except for ants which bit them all over. But at moonrise Fraser stole out of his tent and crept down to the shore. He threw a heavy object, to which a rope was attached, into the lake. The Gang heard it splash as it sank. Fraser returned noiselessly to his tent.

'What can that have been?' Angela whispered.

'Tomorrow we'll go and look,' Frank answered.

The next day the Gang were back, equipped with flippers and masks. They changed in the bushes beside the lake and dived. After several attempts they found what they thought was the right place and dived again. Suddenly Frank signalled to them to surface. He had discovered what Fraser had thrown into the lake.



What had Fraser thrown into the lake?

8. The Necklace

Frank had spotted ██████████ at the bottom of the lake.
‘Are you sure it belongs to Fraser?’ Angela asked.

‘It must do. There’s a rope attached to it,’ Frank said.
‘Let’s go down again and see what it contains.’

When they reached the bag Ralph struggled with the knots and Frank reached inside. At that moment there was a sharp tug on the rope and the bag vanished upwards. The gang realized at once that Fraser had returned. They surfaced among the reeds.

‘What a nuisance!’ Ralph exclaimed, furiously.

‘At least we have recovered a necklace,’ Frank said trying to cheer him up.

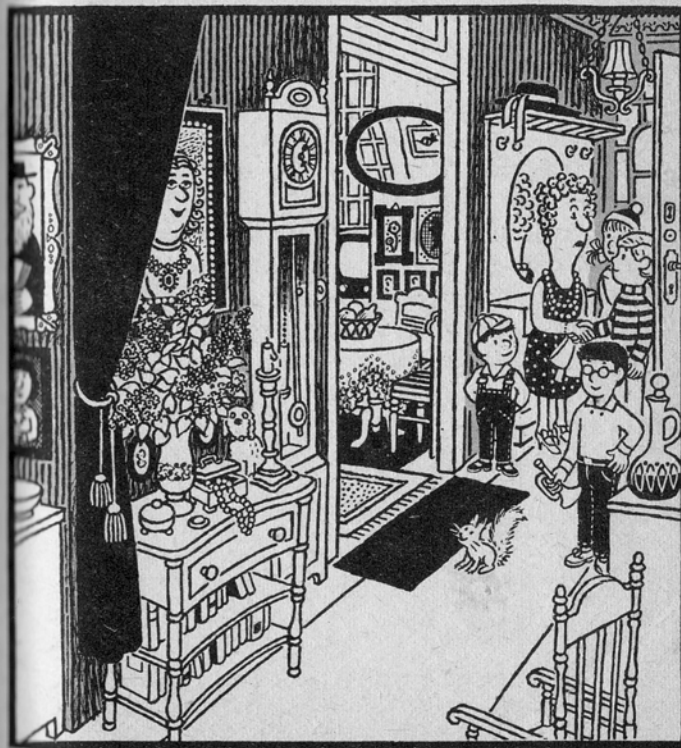
Angela inspected it. ‘It looks like a family heirloom,’ she said.

An hour later they stood outside Mrs Partridge’s door. She was far from happy.

‘It’s disgraceful,’ she complained. ‘The police still haven’t found my jewellery.’

‘We may have good news for you,’ Angela interrupted. ‘We have found something and we’d like you to tell us if it belongs to you. Show her the necklace, Frank.’

‘No need,’ answered Frank. ‘I know it is her necklace.’



How did Frank know the necklace belonged to Mrs Partridge?

9. One Step Behind

As soon as Frank pointed out [REDACTED], he said to the others: 'Quick, let's get back to Breezy Lake. Hurry.'

They were, of course, just too late. Fraser had left on his motor-cycle.

'We'll have to tell Sergeant Shorthouse,' said Ralph. 'I'll call him.'

A squealing of brakes announced the arrival of a police car at Breezy Lake. The Black Hand Gang jumped in and they raced off again, Angela explaining the position to the Sergeant as they went.

'Stop!' she shouted suddenly. The car drew up beside a policeman on a bicycle.

'A motor-cycle and side-car? Yes, I've seen one. It turned into Robertson's farm a little while ago.'

As they entered the farmyard with the police, the Black Hand Gang saw the motor-cycle. They went into the house and called, 'Hello.'

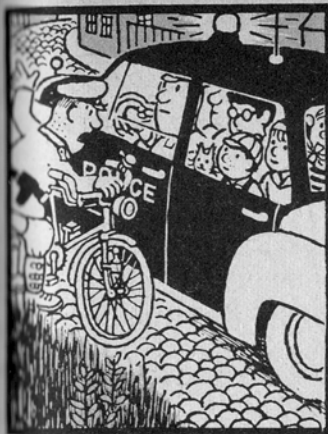
'Yeeees,' answered a woman's voice from the kitchen.

'That's his girl friend,' whispered Frank. 'The one he took to the cinema that evening.'

'What's your name?' asked Sergeant Shorthouse.

'Rita Fergusson. I'm the cleaning woman. The boss and his wife have gone to town. I've been here alone all morning.'

'She's lying,' Ralph said. 'There's the proof.'



What had Ralph seen?

10. Rita Won't Talk

Sergeant Shorthouse held the [REDACTED] under Rita's nose and asked sternly: 'Where is the man hiding?'

'I don't know what you're talking about.'

'If that's the way you want it,' the Sergeant answered, 'we'll search the whole house. Show us round.'

Rita pulled a chair into the middle of the room and sat down on it, saying with a scornful air, 'Search if you want to. Go and creep down every little mousehole, but don't expect me to help you.'

Sergeant Shorthouse wasted no more time but took his men to search every room in the house. Meanwhile, the Black Hand Gang sat on the stairs and watched Rita closely.

'If they can't find Fraser,' Keith W.S. whispered, 'they'll think it's our fault.'

'He must be here,' answered Frank.

At last only the store cupboards remained and Sergeant Shorthouse inspected these too, without result. He came back to the children and said, 'Well, we've looked everywhere. . . .'

'There's one door you've missed,' Angela answered. 'Perhaps that's the right one.'



Which door did Angela mean?

11. The Last Door

Not until Angela pointed it out did Sergeant Shorthouse see the [REDACTED]

'Get up,' he snapped at Rita.

As he pulled the door open she cried, 'There's really no one down there.'

Sergeant Shorthouse only laughed and shouted down into the cellar: 'Come out of there, no one.'

A crash helmet slowly emerged and under it, a face.

'Fraser!' exclaimed the Gang with one voice.

Sergeant Shorthouse put the handcuffs on him and asked, 'Where's the loot?'

But Fraser struggled furiously and said, 'I'll sue you I'm an honest citizen.'

'That remains to be seen.'

The second policeman climbed down to the cellar and returned with the duffel bag. 'There's nothing else suspicious,' he said.

Sergeant Shorthouse reached into the bag. It was empty.

'Mr Fraser was just bringing up some potatoes for me,' Rita said, angrily. 'Your arrival upset him.'

She said much more besides, not noticing that the Black Hand Gang had slipped quietly away into the cellar.

Ralph, squinting in the gloom, suddenly exclaimed, 'I've found it. Look, all of you, there's the stolen jewellery!'



Where was the jewellery?