

Session/Game: Private Dicks-10 **Date:** October 14, 2026

#10: Hotel Dicks part 1: Molesburg is Full of Meanies.

Campaign Date: April, 1947, Week 2 (Tuesday April 8—Thursday April 10)

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)

Rangeley Wade Melman (Bob)

Palmela Hansbury (Andrew—absent)

Pudge Matheson (Pete)

Judge: Dave N.

News Stories:

WMOL Radio: Breaking News: Body of Crazy Leo Discovered North of Finsterville. The corpse of Pittsburgh hoodlum Crazy Leo, a known associate of Frank Pepperello, was found along Finsterville Road, north of the borough. The coroner ruled his death a homicide, due to the multitude of shotgun wounds. He was likely killed elsewhere and hauled to the road and dumped there overnight, as judging by the lack of blood where the body was found.

Morning Gazette, Robert Scooperson: Socialite Miriam Dreely Killed in Firearm Accident. The noted Uptown Heights socialite Miriam Dreely was found dead at the house of her cousin Winthrop Jenkins. She was apparently preparing for a quail shooting outing on family land north of town and accidentally discharged the weapon she was cleaning right into her face. There will only be a small, private funeral.

Evening Report: Skip and Jackson: Mysterious “Octopus” gang in War with Pittsburgh Hoodlums” Sources report that the gang that is currently at war with the organized thugs from Pittsburgh is an alliance of local criminals know as “The Octopus.” The structure and leadership of this mob is unknown, but they are believed to be extremely dangerous.

The Client Arrives:

A sharply dressed man in the very latest business attire enters the McNulty Agency one fine afternoon and very politely asks Madeline to let him see one of the partners. He hands over a card reading *Malcolm Lawson, attorney-at-law*. Tuesday, April 8

“We haven’t met, but I am the counselor and business manager of the renowned Mrs. Grimsby. She praised your quick work and discretion in dealing with the unfortunate incident with her nephew Rudiger Hayes, Old Man Jenkins and the late Mrs, Dreely. She has asked me to engage your agency to clear up some trouble with one of her holdings, The Golden Arms Hotel, Downtown.

The hotel manager, Fred McClure, reports that there have been threats against him and the hotel phoned during the past few weeks. Also, there have been some thefts and property damage on the property. The current Hotel Detective has quit, and he was the only security the hotel had. We are looking for discreet help, in the form of a team to give 24/7 coverage of the hotel, 1 man on duty at all times and for investigation of the source of the threats. Mrs. Grimsby will pay \$300 per week for the coverage, until a permanent, trustworthy staff can be hired, and

\$1500 if the threats are identified and stopped. Your agents will be given credentials as hotel employees, but will report to me."

Log:

Tuesday, April 8

Afternoon

When they meet with attorney Lawson, the detectives decide to take the case, but also ask for a crash room in the hotel to facilitate security and investigation. Lawson agrees without complaint and tells them he can get them the credentials by the end of the day. Magnum tells him that they will start security duty on the morning of the 9th, waiting for the credentials to arrive and their preparations put in order.

They spend some time coming up with a manpower plan for the assignment. Magnum will be on duty at the hotel from 6am-6pm each day. Pudge will be assigned to outside investigation from Noon to 6pm and on hotel duty from 6-10pm. Rangeley will be on hotel duty from 10pm-8am and either in the crash room or outdoors when off duty.

When the planning is finished, Pudge and Rangeley decide to scout the hotel covertly. They get an idea of the layout and workings of the hotel. Magnum stays at the office to contemplate. Lawson's office boy delivers the credentials around 5.

Evening

Pudge, Rick and Rangeley decide to head to Boulevard Jazz Club, Downtown, to get some R&R before taking on the hotel dick job. Pudge gets a shot of rye before being iced out by Miss Matherine Hepborne and getting laughed at by Ugly Joe. Rangeley, meanwhile, has to repeatedly threaten a friendly encyclopedia salesman, who was only trying to be helpful (this time, he's the meany) and tries to hit on some cross-eyed ho-bag, but is rejected and then laughed at by Ugly Joe.

Pudge, feeling fortified, goes up to the stage and asks his supposed pal Mary Torch if he might play with the band. Mary refuses, saying that the club has a strict union-only policy and Pudge doesn't have a union card. Pudge seethes for a minute, but then offers Mary \$10, ostensibly to "pay his dues" and she lets him up to blow his horn. His music is perfectly fine for a Tuesday night and so Pudge crosses off "Boulevard Jazz Club" from his list of places he wants to shoot up.

Meanwhile, Rangely tries to hit on Harriet Muggles, but is interrupted by the reporter Robert Scooperson. Robert had recognized Rangeley from the drugstore shoot-out incident and wanted to see how and what Rangeley was doing. Scooperson did tell him that Pepperello is rumored to have an angry brother who has blown into town with a sack full of mad. Harriet Muggles is really impressed by the fact that Rangeley is a real-life private eye, just like the movies, and that he's friends with the guy playing trumpet on stage. She begs to see his real-life private eye office. Rangeley nearly queers the deal since he doesn't have a car, but comes up with a reasonable story and he and Harriet go by cab to office to fade to black.

Night

The night is a time for sleeping and "sleeping".

Wednesday April 9

Morning

Rangeley, Magnum and Pudge meet at the Golden Arms Hotel at 8am only to discover that the manager, Fred McClure, does not start his shift until 2:00pm, when the check-ins and immediate prep begins. They briefly talk to the assistant manager, Harry Junkers, show him their credentials, and get room 308 for their crash room. They decide to wait at the hotel for McClure to arrive at 2. Rangeley takes a nap. Magnum watches the lobby.

Pudge decides to search the hotel more in depth. As he checks the various floors, something is different on the 5th. A man in suspenders over his T-shirt stops him in the hall and talks to him. His name is Barnaby Johnson, sometime assistant to Silas Grant, booking agent. Johnson explains that the 5th floor is on long-term lease to the Railroad Theater across the street for the use of certain employees, guests and talent. Each authorized person will have a pass signed by Phil Meany, the general manager of the theater. Johnson is quite surprised that Freddy Ogontz, the former house dick, is gone. He himself was out of town for a week or so and had no inkling that Ogontz was likely to leave. Johnson assures Pudge that he has nothing to worry about on the 5th floor.

Afternoon

At 2 O'Clock Manager Fred McClure arrives and gives the dicks the low down. He provides a complete list of the hotel staff and their work hours and a rundown of the incidents of theft and vandalism over the last couple of weeks. He also explains about the lease of the 5th floor to the theater folk, and says that the traveling theater booking agent Silas Grant, who's from Canton Ohio, is the most regular guest from that group, showing up every 10 days or so.

Pudge decides to go to Ogontz's apartment. He finds a cop at the door who tells him that it's a crime scene, and he's holding everyone out until the crime scene squad shows up. Ugly Joe pokes his head out of his own apartment and laughs at Pudge. Pudge waits a couple of hours, till evidence guys arrive, do their work and leave. He picks lock (from having watched Rangeley doing it many times, he figured it was worth a shot). Inside finds copious blood stains in the bathroom and bullet hole in wall. Things aren't looking good for Ogontz. Pudge hurries back to the hotel.

Magnum has an uneventful afternoon in the lobby, Rangeley sleeps the afternoon away in the crash room.

Evening

Pudge, Rangeley and Magnum meet at Lou's Coffee Shop in the hotel. They fill each other in on what they've learned. As Pudge wanders off to take his shift in the lobby and Magnum heads up to 308 to get some sleep,, Harriet Muggles, whom Rangeley met last night, comes out from behind the counter, surprised to see him there. It turns out that they're both working here. Rangeley asks her a few questions about the theft and vandalism, but she seems awfully unsure except that none of the incidents have happened at the coffee shop.

Pudge spots Silas Grant coming into the lobby and stops him for his pass. Grant shows it and is very surprised that his good pal Ogontz had quit, it didn't seem likely. Grant had been away looking for acts to book in Philadelphia for the last week or so and expected to see Ogontz

when he got back. Grant gets Pudge's name, but Pudge hides the fact that he's a McNulty working for Mrs. Grimsby. Instead, he says he moved up from a house dick job at a worse hotel. Grant says that he hopes he and Pudge will be great pals. Later spots some business jerk and an obvious floosie (at least 75% sure) rush into the lobby and straight to the elevator. Pudge gets in with them and when it's clear they are headed for the 5th floor, he asks for their passes, which they show.

Night

A little past 2am, when Rangeley has taken over lobby duty, he spots an obnoxious drunk come stumbling into the lobby. He has no key, but claims he's got a room on the 5th floor. Rangeley asks for his pass, but he says he left it up in the room. Rangeley is having none of it. He grabs hold of the drunk, bum-rushes him the whole way across the lobby and chucks him out into the street, where he scrapes up his face.

Thursday April 10th

Morning

As Magnum leaves the coffee shop for lobby duty, Silas Grant strides in and confronts Pudge and Rangeley about last night's drunk removal. Rangeley is rather belligerent and doesn't give his real name, calling himself "Iron Balls McGinty." Grant claims the guy did have a pass from the theater company, but Pudge and Rangeley made it clear that there will be no entry if the guest can't actually show his pass..

Pudge and Rangeley go to Railroad Theater to check things out. They find it locked up, theater people aren't early people. They go around to back alley and Rangeley picks the lock. Rangeley hears a conversation at the manager's office and sneaks up for a listen. It appears that the drunk he threw out was Stinky Jones and this might cause some heat of some sort. Phil Meany, the theater manager, was more angry with the 2 men he was talking to, than they were at him. Meany was irritated that any of these guys activities would blow back on him when he just signed some passes. Rangeley, however, was heard while trying to move in for a closer look. He and Pudge make a run for it immediately, and manage to get clear of the theater before being cornered. Pudge spots that Barnaby Johnson, from the 5th floor yesterday, was one of the two shady characters chasing them.

Magnum, sitting on one of the lobby couches, is suddenly confronted by Gertrude Cooley, the coffee shop manager. She berates him as a lazy lay-about and demands she clear up the shenanigans right now instead of sitting on his duff, She particularly points out Billy Frey, the head bartender at the hotel bar. She claims he's a tweaker and probably behind the whole thing. She also says if a hotel dick like Magnum would do his job, like she does in the coffee shop, there wouldn't be any mischief.

Afternoon

Magnum, still on duty, keeps his eyes on Billy Frey when he arrives at 2. He sees him acting nervous, squeezing his hands and sweating. He also seems to check a box of liquor bottles with undue care, looking all over the labels.

Pudge and Rangeley call Lawson and tell him about theater crew safe house and its general suspicious nature. Lawson doesn't think it rises to action yet, but appreciates being kept up to date.

Magnum hears a couple of bell boys complaining that Silas Grant is back. Magnum buttonholes one of the and asks him about why Grant is a cause for complaint. After refusing to tip him and threatening his job, Magnum learns that Grant's visits always end with the bell boys having to haul out heavy boxes to a van. At least Grant is a better tipper than Magnum.

Pudge is most curious about the missing \$400 from the safe. After McClure arrives, he asks him some deeper questions about the matter. McClure reveals that the safe wasn't cracked, but rather someone had jammed the lock with a wad of wet paper when it was opened and pulled it open later to rob it. It could only be done when the safe was open, during McClure's own shift from 2-10. But then, the office door was securely locked and only McClure, Junkers, Frey, Cooley, Ogontz and Buddy Crawls had the key. So, it had to be one of them or a skilled and stealth lock picker who had pulled off the wadding. McClure had asked Captain Riley of Ward 8 Police to investigate, but his crime scene guys had found nothing. Lawson had declined to file an insurance claim.

Evening

While Pudge was on duty and Rangeley was hanging out, Pudge sees a group of sharp dressed guys enter the lobby separately and sidle toward the elevator. He nabs one of them and takes him to the desk. He claims he's visiting Mr. Dice in room 303. The desk clerk calls 303, and Frank Spoons, then later the four other guys, are cleared to go up. Rangeley calls Magnum, asleep in 308, and asks him to check things out. Magnum confirms that dudes are coming up, by looking out the peep hole. He then seeks over to 303 and listens until he hears "ante up", and deduces they are having a poker game.

Night

Clear