

Session/Game: Private Dicks-3 **Date:** June 24, 2026
#3: The Case of the Heisted Bombs Part 1: City Full of Jerks
Campaign Date: March, 1947, Week 1

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)
Rangeley Wade Melman (Bob)
Palmela Hansbury (Andrew, absent)
Pudge Matheson (Pete)

Judge: Dave N.

Prologue

The intercom in the bullpen buzzed and Madeline's voice crackled "There's a Heywood Rodney here to discuss a job."

You entered the reception office and you could tell right away that he was an insurance man. He had an insurance man's slick haircut, an insurance man's suit that was just nice enough to notice, but not nice enough to be impressive and an insurance man's cologne that was just mild enough that you wouldn't mistake him for a two-bit pimp or jazz musician. There was no reason to like him, no reason at all.

"Good afternoon" he said, after checking his insurance man watch to be sure it was legally afternoon. "I represent the Spire Insurance Company in Dudley. We have received a claim from the P&J Railroad about 3 crates of military bomb parts stolen from their freight terminal. Each of these crates was insured for \$30,000 and we are obligated to pay in 30 days from today. We would like to hire your agency to recover the crates. Will will pay the standard recovery fee of 10% of insured value for all recovered items returned before the payout date. We will also pay legitimate, documented and germane expenses."

You know what that last part meant—so you weren't gonna do any breath holding on the expenses without a lot of paperwork, but 10% of up to \$90,000 was serious dough. How hard could it be to find 3 crates in 30 days?

Log:

March 1

Afternoon:

Remembering what Mary Wheels had told them last week, that Pollack Stan in Popeton or Ray Fickes in Broadly were the two hoods most likely to have been able to pull off the railroad heist, Pudge and Rangely drive over to Popeton in Pudge's sedan. They arrive at the Sausage Time Restaurant at 2pm, hoping to see Melman's friend Mama Mary, the owner. While they are waiting for a table, a kid named Reliable Timski comes up to them asking to do a job for a dollar, Melman throws him 15c and tells him to check in later. Momma Mary did know Pollack Stan, who eats at Sausage Time frequently, but says that his crew hadn't been by in a week or two. However, she had caught sight of 1-2 of them at a time over near the Floor Browns Pharmacy. The gang consisted of Stanislaus Volski (Pollack Stan), Whistles McLosky, Beans Tomsy and Gobbles Krakow.

Pudge was interested in taking some java with him and, when Timski came back, Pudge gave him some cash to go get him a thermos from McCrory's. When he gets back from the dime store, Pudge has Mary fill it with java. Melman pays Timski to look for Stan's gang near the pharmacy, saying he will check in tomorrow.

Meanwhile Magnum drives over to Center City to check with Mary Headline at the Evening Report for more information. Mary says that there was no sign of breaking in and no witness to the heist. Magnum says he suspected bribery or an inside man, to which Mary agreed. Magnum promised an exclusive if they found anything and headed back to the office.

Evening:

Pudge and Melman go to Uptown Heights to visit The Smooth Jazz House. Pudge's driving skill prevented a station wagon from smashing into them. Having dropped the sedan off with the valet, the pair headed toward the club door.

Pudge, however, was intercepted by a lost child who grabbed hold of him and demanded he find her mommy. He ends up taking the child (Violetta Dreely) to the nearby police station where a gaggle of Irish flatfoots waste his entire evening with damned fool questions. Eventually, Violetta's mother, Miriam Dreely of Fancy Manor, arrives, collects the child and throws Pudge a quarter. She promises that the child's Irish nanny would be severely punished and offers to have her butler give Pudge a beer sometime, if he goes round to the manor's back door.

Melman, leaving his pal in the hands of his potato-eating tormentors, enters The Smooth Jazz House and chats up the bartender and Polish waiter Krebyek, whom he had seen earlier working in the Sausage Time. Krebyek confirms that the Floor-Brown Pharmacy is the only spot where Pollack Stan has been seen lately. Sprung mother gives quarter—Miriam Dreely of Fancy Manor, Magnum went home.

Magnum did not partake in any social or detective activities. He just went home to his apartment, because it was *Lone Ranger* night on the radio.

March 2:

Morning:

Pudge and Magnum drive to the Freight Terminal in the Factory District to observe the work patterns. 2 Italian freight heavers give them the business, going as far as calling them Irish. The supervisor, Freight Joe Diggles, gets the Italians back to work and answers a few questions when they tell him that they're working for the insurance company. It becomes clear that there was some inside information behind the heist, judging from the smoothness of the operation.

Meanwhile, over at Floor Browns Drugs, Melman links up with Responsible Timski to stake out Pollock Stan. Timski points Stan out, coming out of the drugstore. Melman tries to tail Stan, but Stan looses him behind an alley dumpster.

Afternoon:

The three detectives, through a series of calls back to Madeline at the office arrange to meet up at the Floor-Browns. Magnum enters pharmacy and sees that there is a back entrance that shares access to a flight of stairs leading to some flats on the second floor. Magnum decides to sit at the soda fountain to observe the place. Unfortunately, a teen punk sits down next to him

and demands money—or else he's going to whack him with a sock full of nickles. Magnum reaches into his coat pocket, puts on his brass knuckles and punches the kid twice in the face, spraying the face of the soda jerk with blood and causing a cabbie at the end of the counter to spit coffee out his nose. At first everyone thought the kid was dead, and some lady screamed that his head flew off (it was just his hat). The kid was just severely bused up and would have died if he hadn't gotten to the hospital. The statements of the soda jerk and cabbie made it clear that the punk was threatening Magnum, unprovoked, so the cops let it slide (kid wasn't Irish).

With all the cop sirens blazing, Pollack Stan and his crew fled their hideout, upstairs from the pharmacy. Melman sees Whistles, Beans and Gobbles making a run for it to their back-up hideout, which turned out to be the filthy flophouse where Pudge lives. This time Melman tails them successfully thereto.

Evening:

The dicks take a break and plan out some late-night action

Night:

Melman opens back door of Floor Browns, and the team search the store room but find no crates. They also pick the locks and search the upstairs flats, but it is clear that the crew had completely pulled out.

The detectives head over to Pudge's flophouse, where Ugly Tony, the night manager tells them that the 4 new guys have the last 4 rooms at the end of the hall. Pudge rushes to the first of the rooms on the right and finds Beans inside. Pudge eventually beats down and pins Beans under the bed, and he surrenders., Magnum cornered Whistles with shotgun and forces him back into he first room on the left. A gun fight breaks out in the hall where Pollack Stan and Melman each shoot the other twice. As Pollack Stan withdraws to the last door on the left, Gobbles busts out of his room waving a lead pipe and starts beating Melman until Melman finally shoots him down. Whistles keeps his nerve despite being threatened with a shotgun and begins to beat on Magnum with his own lead pipe. Finally, Magnum brings the shotgun to bear and blasts Whistles to pieces. Hearing the shotgun go off, Pollack Stan shoot his revolver through the paper thin walls and hits Magnum in he next room. Magnum returns fire through the wall and wounds Stan in return. and Pollack shoot each other through the walls. While Magnum hides in the bathroom, Pollack makes a run for it. Melman catches up with him, but Stan slugs him, pushing him back and makes his escape.

Pudge discovers that some punk had robbed his room of a sock and a bunch of nickles. But, he pays Ugly Tony to get rid of the bodies of Whistles and Gobbles, while yhe detectives question their prisoner Beans McClosky (Irish!). Beans reveals that his own brother-in-law is hiding one of the stolen crates at the repair garage in the bus station. A second is in the hands of one of Pollack Stan's cousins, and the third was in the hands of a big-wig of the new mafia crew from Pittsburgh who are taking over the gangs in Popeton. The guy's name is Frank Pepperello, a loan shark.

They get Beans to call his brother-in-law and ask him to meet them at the bus garage. They meet up, collect the crate and let Beans go. Beans buys a bus ticket to Johnstown and leaves as fast as possible.

March 3:

They deliver 1 crate to Heywood Rodney at Spire Insurance and receive a check for \$3000.