

Session/Game: Private Dicks-7 **Date:** August 26, 2026

#7: The Case of the Missing Sister

Campaign Date: March, 1947, Week 4

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)

Rangleley Wade Melman (Bob)

Palmela Hansbury (Andrew—absent)

Pudge Matheson (Pete)

Remington Monroe IV (Adam—absent)

Judge: Dave N.

News Stories:

WMOL Radio: Breaking News: Intrepid News lady Mary Headlines was struck and killed in Popeton. There were no witnesses to the late night accident. Captain Murphy of Precinct 7 said, based on gut instinct and years of experience has said “almost certainly the work of drunken pollacks.”

Morning Gazette, Robert Scooperson: Shock in the Courthouse! Frank Pepperello was indicted and held without bail by Judge Sydney Preston, despite there being no (living) witnesses to him receiving the stolen bomb parts and the evidence from the delivery driver that the shipment was sent by an unidentified mask man outside of city limits. No connection exists on the record of Pepperello’s connection to the bomb caper, so most lawyers and court observers had expected him to walk.

Evening Report: Frank’s Check Cashing and Salary Lending in Broadly, the reputed headquarters of reputed gangster and loan shark Frank Pepperello, was set on fire last night by some supposed street punks. Captain McDaniel of the 4th precinct says that they’ll keep an eye out for punks in the area, especially Italians, but, after all, boys will be boys.

The Client Arrives

Rufus Pettibone (kind of suspicious looking and shifty eyed) comes into the office looking for someone who will track down his sister Gladys. The story is that their parents are very worried about her, as she was hooked up with a two bit gambler named Potluck Riley. Riley was last seen in Pittsburgh buying a train ticket to Molesburg with someone who might have been Gladys. Pettibone offers \$250 up front and \$250 if Gladys is handed over within a week. Pettibone will be staying at the Golden Arms Hotel, across the street from the Railroad Theater in Downtown. The Pettibones are from Columbus, Ohio and their father Sherman is the president of the Columbus Commerce Bank. Rufus has a picture of Gladys, but only a general description of Riley: tall, jutting ears, likes a straw hat.



Gladys Pettibone

Log:

March 25

Morning

Rufus Pettibone hires the McNulty Agency to find his sister and get her away from Potluck Riley the gambler.

Pudge calls up Mary Wheels and she drives him around town while he asks her about gambling haunts, for possible leads on Potluck Riley. While driving through Broadly, they see that the front door of the Jazz Pit is open. Pudge has Mary park around the corner and tries to sneak in. It turns out that the hit-man Chopper is there and easily spots Pudge. Pudge introduces himself as "Johnny Jazzbo" and says he was checking to see if the Jazz Pit was hiring musicians. Chopper says he's a musician too and points out his violin case, while his day job was in "pest control". Chopper asks him to play a song while he waits for his no good punk of a boss to show up. As Pudge readies a song, Fickes comes in and immediately recognizes him as a McNulty. Pudge tries to convince Chopper to shoot Fickes, cause he's a jerk, but Chopper isn't convinced. Fickes pulls a revolver and wounds Pudge slightly in the arm. While Chopper is getting his tommy gun out of the violin case, Pudge flees out the back door, and escapes into the warehouse next door. Fickes and Chopper begin to give chase, but the cops arrive.

Meanwhile, Rangeley takes the bus to Popeton and checks in with Momma Mary at Sausage Time. Based on the description of Potluck Riley that Rangeley gives her. She does identify a certain "Bill Caruthers" as a new gambler making the rounds that could be him.

Magnum takes photo of Gladys to a Center City photo shop to get some copies made. He arranges for 3 copies to be made for \$10, which should be ready around 5 in the afternoon. Fortuitously, Magnum sees Gladys in back of cab heading up toward Uptown Heights.

The team meets back at office around noon to compare notes.

Afternoon

Based on Magnum's chance spotting of Gladys, the dicks thought that the odds were good that she was somewhere in Uptown Heights and so decided to spend the afternoon checking there.

Pudge stakes out The Palace Hotel and Ballroom and spots County Detective Barshinger entering and loitering in the lobby. Pudge sneaks in to keep an eye on Barshinger, but is spotted by the desk manager. When confronted, Pudge says that he's looking for a wedding venue and leaves the name as Johnny Jazzbo on wedding register. Later, Pudge witnesses Barshinger arrest a man he calls Sid Devious getting out of the elevator. The guy claims he's just an innocent traveler named Frank Wholesome, but is bundled off into a sheriff's car.

Rangeley stakes out the Clearview Guesthouse and Tea Room in disguise. He sees Detective Johnny Slam entering the place, perhaps for some tea. Rangeley doesn't do any follow up.

Magnum spends the afternoon drinking coffee at the office waiting in case the others phone in. Johnny Dice drops by looking for Remmy. He asks Magnum to let Remmy know that he's got a line on a big card game tomorrow night. When 5pm rolls around, Magnum picks up pictures and distributes them to the team.

Evening

Pudge goes to Palace Hotel again and shows the picture of Gladys to the desk clerk. He says that she is Mrs. Caruthers. Pudge reports this to his partners who work up a plan. Magnum pays a bellhop to take a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Caruthers. Rangeley tails the bell boy to room 420. In order to keep Knuckles, the house detective from spotting Rangeley, Pudge steals a silver candy dish and runs off saying "I'm Chopper", Knuckles the house dick runs off after him, tackles him and tries to twist his arm. Pudge breaks the hold, drops candy dish and tries to flee, totally escaping.

Pudge hides outside while Magnum and Rangeley lurk in the lobby. Soon after, Gladys and Riley (a.k.a. Mr. and Mrs. Caruthers) arrive in the lobby and approach the concierge. Magnum hears them make plans to head out to the Brentwood Room and then Smooth Jazz House for a night on the town.

After Magnum and Rangeley scoop up Pudge, they all drive down to Downtown and pick up Rufus Pettibone, telling him they have located his sister and will bring them together at the Smooth Jazz House. The four of them take up position in the club. When Gladys and Riley show up, Magnum moves to block any exit through the front door. Pudge, Rangeley and Rufus confront Gladys. She refuses to come with him. At first, Pudge refuses to act as a kidnapper, but then Rufus accuses Gladys of embezzling a large amount of money from their father's bank. Gladys gets more and more pissy about the whole thing and Riley just slinks off. Rangeley decides it's go time and pulls a bag over her head. Gladys pulls a revolver and tries to shoot Rangeley, but misses. Pudge Rangeley and Rufus wrestle the gun out of Gladys's hand and after Rangeley gets her in an arm lock, she gives up and agrees to go quietly. They get Magnum and all climb into Pudge's sedan, leaving the shocked club patrons with their jaws dropped floorward.

In car, Gladys gets out a blackjack and tries to bash Rangeley, but he stops her. Rangeley and Magnum beat the living crap out of her, busting her guts. They take her to Tomlinson Sanitarium, a hush hush private clinic for the fashionable to get her patched up. Rufus is apologetic for her sister's behavior and grateful for the quick and thorough service. He pays out the promised second \$259 plus a \$50 bonus.