

Session/Game: Private Dicks-8 **Date:** September 9, 2026

#8: The Case of the Old Man's Box, Part 1:

Campaign Date: April, 1947, Week 1

The McNulty Agency:

Richard Eric Magnum (Craig)

Rangeley Wade Melman (Bob)

Palmela Hansbury (Andrew—absent)

Pudge Matheson (Pete)

Remington Monroe IV (Adam—absent)

Judge: Dave N.

News Stories:

WMOL Radio: Breaking News: “Another Fire in Broadly.” for the second time in as many weeks, a Broadly business has been burned down. The Jazz Pit, a local hot spot was damaged by an arson attack early Thursday morning. No injuries were reported.

Morning Gazette, Robert Scooperson: Rash of Burglaries! The number of burglaries in Factory District, Downtown, and especially Popeton has increased 4 fold over the last 2 weeks. The Sausage Time restaurant, a local favorite in Popeton was among those hit, losing cash and some expensive sausage pots.

Evening Report: Another Charge for Pepperello. Reputed gangster Frank Pepperello was charged with the murder of reporter Mary Headlines this morning. In an unusual move, Judge Preston ordered the District Attorney to file the charges, and when Mr. Pepperello's attorney, Jason Smythe, objected to the lack of evidence and the fact that his client was in jail at the time, the judge sent the attorney to jail for contempt for 24 hours..

The Client Arrives

A lawyer, maybe 50 years old, but wearing an old fashioned suit, complete with spats, enters the office and introduces himself as T. Ridgeford Leaderton. He asks Madeline to see Mr. McNulty and she tells him that McNulty has passed on, but offers the help of one of the other detectives, to which he agrees after some bloviating. He says that his client, Winthrop Jenkins of Old Spire, is offering \$1000 if the detectives can return to him a Civil War dispatch box marked “4th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry” quickly and with the contents unexamined.

Log:

April 1

Morning

Lawyer Leaderton arranges for the McNulty agency to meet his client Winthrop Jenkins that afternoon at his house in Old Spire to investigate the stolen dispatch box. Rangeley, Pudge and Magnum head over to Popeton to check in with Mama Mary after her robbery. Sausage Time is closed, but Timski is outside. They talk about the burglaries, but there are no major insights. Rangeley calls Johnny Suds and finds out that Fickes believes that the fire-bombing of the Jazz Pit was in retribution for the attack on Frank's Check Cashing. Magnum checks on the pawn shops and resale stores in town.

Afternoon

After a delicious lunch at a McCroy's lunch counter in Old Spire, they make their meeting at The Old Jenkins House. They discuss the case in detail with Old Winthrop Jenkins. They gather general background, learning that beyond the dispatch box, certain other items, like curtains, silver pokers and a mess of canned peaches had been boosted over the last 3 months. Those with access to the house were the nephew Bill Jenkins, Schmitt the handyman and Mrs. Schmitt the terrible housekeeper, Lawyer Leaderton, the irritable neighbor Randy Spire and Miriam Dreely, a socialite cousin of Jenkins. Rangeley discovers that the hand prints around the boxes were made by an adult male. They head downstairs to see the nephew, Bill Jenkins, who lives in the basement and does errands for his uncle. They find Bill to be a complete mooch and general douche. Pudge takes a picture of him. Rangeley notices the Racing Forms in his trash.

They move along to the Pawn Baron to check on things. They talk to Mr. Barone about the missing items. Rangeley sets a date with Brenda at the Jazz Hole for later. They examine some sausage pots and buy the one with Polish writing.

They head over toward Frederick's Antiques. In front of the shop, they are approached by 3 masked punks. Magnum gets the drop on them and two put up their hands. The third one, Jimmy McRod, is apparently not subject to fear and has no filter. He lunges, is wounded by a shot from Magnum's carbine, then beaten into submission by Rangeley and Pudge. Pudge finds they were sent by someone/something called The Octopus, takes his gun, kicks him in the ass and takes his picture. Then a pair of cops arrive and when they ask Jimmy for his side of the story, he mouths off. The cops then beat him some more and haul him off, figuring it's all his fault.

When the cops leave, the dicks enter the shop. Pudge finds the peaches and fire pokers and takes pictures. They end up bribing Fred, the owner, for a look at the record books for the history of the purchases and find that they were all sold to him by a guy named Robert LaForge. Digging deeper, after more bribe money, they find out that the dispatch box was sold on March 19 to a certain Rudiger Hayes, whose address is listed as the same as Stately Grimsby Manor in Uptown Heights, the home of Mrs. Beatrix Grimsby, the wealthiest woman in town.

Evening

They go to get some dinner at Culver's Steak House in Dudley. Percy Fontane, the manager, however, asks Pudge to leave as he's a notorious Jazzbo, whose sort aren't welcome. They head over to the Jazz Hole in Old Spire. The Molesburg Trio refuses to let Pudge play, saying that they heard that a talent scout is coming by and despite his pleadings they are resolute.

The 3 McNultys leave and go to River Jazz Spot instead. There the Double Sax Band is more than happy to let Pudge jam with them and together they perform a very successful set. However, Crazy Leo and three goons come into the club and spot the McNultys there. Crazy Leo, still enraged at being shot and beaten by them starts to make some noise. Rangeley convinces them to go outside. After a few minutes, the dicks go outside to see how this will go down.

The four gangsters are waiting for them. Rangeley rushes Crazy Leo, but Leo whacks him over the head with a blackjack and drops him like a bag full of scorpions on a hot day. Pudge punches one goon with his brass knuckles and the goon panics and flees, Another goon almost blackjacks Magnum, but he dodges at the last second. Pudge punches another goon and hits him so hard he breaks his spine clear in two, killing him. The last goon draws a revolver and shoots Magnum, wounding him. Leo also draws a pistol and shoots and wounds

Pudge. Magnum draws his own gun and wounds the last goon, who falls unconscious. Pudge pummels Crazy Leo mercilessly with his brass knuckles and knocks him out. Since it looks like Leo is just stunned, the dicks put a bag over his head, dump him in the car and drive off.

When the cops arrive at the club, they thoroughly question the patrons and staff (mostly beatniks, jazzbos and bartenders). They all claim that they didn't see anything. They do grant that Crazy Leo came in, went back out in the street and started shouting and there was some shooting, but they don't know nothing.