

Session/Game: Private Dicks-9 **Date:** September 30, 2026
#9: The Case of the Old Man's Box, Part 2: She'll Never Get Ahead That Way
Campaign Date: April, 1947, Week 1

The McNulty Agency:

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

Judge: Dave N.

News Stories—Part Two:

WMOL Radio: Breaking News: “Gangland Gunfight in River View.” A gangster name Vincenzo DiCaprio, reportedly part of a gang from Popeton, was killed last night. Another hoodlum called Bobbie Rossetti was found beaten and unconscious at the scene. So far, his only comment to police was “I ain’t telling no Mick flatfoot nothing.” The customers and staff of the River Jazz Spot, outside of which the altercation could only report that there were 4 gangsters in total, one of whom was the infamous “Crazy Leo”. Where Leo and the fourth hood are now is unknown. Police are concerned that this fight is connected to the recent fires in Broadly and that a gang war may be erupting between Popeton and Broadly gangs.

Morning Gazette, Robert Scooperson: Boy thrown from roof! A 11 year old boy from from Popeton, Timski Petrowski, is in serious but stable condition at the General Hospital after being thrown from the roof of the Popeton McCrory’s building. He had a note tied around his neck saying “Rats get bats.”

Evening Report: Mugger Released. Judge Preston has dismissed all charges against accused mugger Jimmy McRod. The judge that the young man has learned his lesson, what with the plethora of beat marks and baton injuries and even a minor gunshot wound. McRod had been charged with attempted robbery, assault, battery and resisting arrest. When asked for comment, McRod said “Up your spout with a can of grout and so’s your old man.”

Log:

April 2

Morning

With Brenda holding up Rangeley, and Magnum and Pudge hauling Crazy Leo, the team stumbles to Pudge’s sedan and drives around the city until sunrise. After dropping off Brenda at a cab stand, they take Finsterville Road up to the mountains the take a right onto Le Pierre Road, a nasty, rocky path. A recent rock slide had block further progress, so Pudge pulled over and the dicks had a look around. They spotted a mountain shack with small puffs of white smoke popping from the chimney. Rangeley declared that his awesome stealth skills would let him sneak up on the shack with ease and he began to cautiously approach. He, however, made a complete hash of the job. Within 5 minutes he found himself with a shotgun pressed against his head and the stench of hillbilly in his nostrils. Rangeley convinces Pappy Delinger, the shotgun wielding shack’s owner and certainly a moonshiner, to let him go, promising not to

return. Pudge manages to turn the car around by the dangerous ravine at roadside and get them safely back to Finsterville Road.

They ride a little farther North, but soon spot a sleek black coupe following them, They let it pass without incident, little knowing that the notorious Chopper was driving it on some business of his own. Luckily, Chopper didn't recognize them either. They eventually make a left onto another terrible mountain track called Crowder Road. A mile or so up the road they find it blocked by a broken down truck. Magnum got out and helped the driver, Fred Smoot, a local rock gatherer and jerky smoker, get it running. When they asked him about property in the area, Smoot mention a summer camp called Camp Wampum up the road, which was closed till June. He invited them all over for jerky sammiches, but they politely refused.

Pudge got the sedan safely to Camp Wampum. Rangeley picked the lock on one of the empty cabins and they dragged the captive Crazy Leo inside.

Afternoon

Although the detectives were getting hungry and were regretting turning down the jerky sammiches, they got to work questioning Crazy Leo. Pudge and Rangeley worked together on the interrogation. They took a softer, persuasive approach, promising to let Leo go alive if he furnished good information. Leo was reasonably forth-coming. He revealed that the gang war was between the Pittsburgh mafia family's Molesburg crew and some local gangs (including Fickes's bunch) that were united as the Octopus, which was led by an unknown secret leader. When pressed about the hit on Mary Headlines, he was a little vague and shifty, blaming it all on Pepperello. Magnum was convinced that Leo was the wheelman who ran her down.

The detectives had a conversation about what to do with Leo. While Magnum wanted to grease him for killing Mary Headlines, but the other two thought that they needed to keep their word to let him go. Their final decision was to take his shoes, drive him back to Le Pierre Road and let him loose near Pappy Delinger's shack. This they did and they heard Delinger's shotgun go off in the distance as they drove off.

Evening

Pudge, Magnum and Rangely rolled into Molesburg around supper time. They drove over to The River View Diner for some famous java from Pops. Rangeley and Pudge go to the hospital to visit Timski, who said that one guy who threw him off the roof was wearing a purple mask. The detectives get him some root beer candy before they leave. Magnum decides to rest up from his wounds.

Night

Everyone gets a good night's sleep, after the java wears off.

April 3

Morning

Pudge and Magnum go over to Center City to drop off Pudge's pictures to be develop. They have breakfast and decide to do some research of the buyer of the Dispatch Box, Rudiger Hayes.

Pudge goes to the Morning Gazette and slippedd the archive attendant, Jimmy Olstein, \$5 to let him look around. Pudge finds Rudiger's story in society page: he's an out of town

nephew of Mrs. Beatrix Grimsby, the richest woman in town, was a payroll clerk in the army during WW2, is an avid Civil War artifact collector, and is visiting the city for a few months.

Magnum goes to the newsroom of the Evening Report and talks with 2 reporter friends of the late Mary Headlines. The reporters, Skip and Jackson, are very eager to help him. They confirm the information that Pudge learns and even get him a picture of Rudiger. Rudiger is a shortish man, bald, with a pencil mustache. In return, Magnum tells them that a secret association of local gangs, known as the Octopus, is the group fighting the gang war with the mafia in town.

Rangeley, after breakfast, puts on his fanciest suit and heads to Grimsby Manor. The door man is unimpressed with Rangeley's request to visit and takes his hints of scandals to be a threat and so shoos the detective away. Instead, Rangeley visits the office of T. Ridgeford Leaderton, Old Man Jenkins's lawyer, to make an appointment at 2.

Afternoon

The dicks meet at Center City Good Eats for lunch and to plan their next moves.

Rangeley meets with Leaderton and they have a discussion about what Rangeley should do. Rangeley decides that getting the lawyer directly involved with contact with the Grimsby family would be a mistake at this point, as it would bring their lawyer, Malcolm Lawson into the mix. Instead, Rangeley borrows one of Leaderton's phones and calls Grimsby Manor himself. Dobbs the butler answers, and after Rangeley makes it clear he wants to talk to Rudiger Hayes about Civil War artifacts, Dobbs takes his number (the McNulty office number) and says he will pass on the message. Rangeley fills in Leaderton about all the progress and Leaderton then calls Jenkins to catch him up. Rangeley goes back to the agency.

Pudge and Magnum stake out Grimsby Manor, hoping to catch sight of Rudiger, but have no such sighting. Around 430, they throw in the towel and go to pick up their pictures.

Rudiger does call the agency office. After Rangeley explains away the fact that he is a private eye, Rudiger starts to get excited about the prospect of talking Civil War stuff and agrees to come over after supper. Rangeley calls Leaderton and fills him in on the plan.

Evening

The detectives gather at the agency after supper. Rudiger arrives and they explain to him about the real origin of the Dispatch Box. To their surprise, Rudiger wants to see Jenkins asap to clear up any illegalities. Rangeley calls Leaderton again and tells him to bring Jenkins up to speed and warn him they are coming.

Rangeley rides to the Jenkins house with Rudiger. Pudge and Magnum drive over in Pudge's sedan keeping slightly behind the Grimsby Limo. Schmitt lets Rangeley and Rudiger into the house and the filthy parlor. Jenkins and Rudiger get along famously and agree that if Jenkins can use his key to open the box and retrieve the contents, he'll let Rudiger keep the box itself.

However, in the midst of all this good will, Miriam Dreely, Jenkins's socialite cousin (?) steps out of a dark alcove with a big gun and gets the drop on Rangeley, Jenkins and Rudiger. She demands that the papers from the box, a modest fortune in untraceable bearer bonds, be handed over to her at once. She had been scheming for these bonds for some time and was haunting around when Jenkins was getting the update calls from Leaderton. While Rangeley and Jenkins freeze, Rudiger gets his spine up and hurls the Old Man's Box at Dreely. He misses and she fires three quick shots back at him, which also completely miss. Rangeley

yanks out his revolver and shoots Dreely twice in the head at close range with such force that her skull explodes and head goo is splattered across the filthy parlor.

Magnum and Pudge rush in, but there is little to be done. Mrs. Schmitt, the housekeeper, follows and immediately quits. The cops arrive, followed by the lawyers Leaderton and Lawson. The matter is quickly determined to be a case of self defense and a public cover story circulated that Dreely accidentally shot herself while cleaning a gun. Little Violetta will likely cry herself to sleep for months. Jenkins gladly pays the \$1000 to the McNulty Agency, and Rangeley, Pudge and Melman vote themselves a \$100 bonus each. Jenkins, when he finds out his mooch of a nephew was stealing from him, chucks him out on the street to try to find a spot at some Popeton flophouse.