

HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



WEBER

FOR THE YOUNG
MYSTERY FAN

WELCOME TO
HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Vol. 4, No. 1
For October/November 1992

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BILLY'S PAGE



Sherlock was looking for his magnifying glass so he could solve a robbery. Soon he found a note. It read:

The \diamond 's
abcdefghijklmnopqstuvwxyz
here →



Sherlock solved it at once. Can You?

written by
Mark Brody
Age 8
Holt, Michigan

Answers on
page 27

#1 Q. What do you call the vampire that pressed the doorbell at 221B?

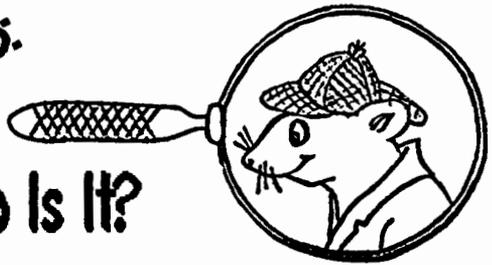
#2 Q. Why was the Sussex Vampire's hair so messy?

Sherlock Holmes was on a case.
The Criminals were in their base.
Sherlock Holmes found every clue,
From the basement to the skies own blue.
In the end he put all the crooks in jail,
And they're still there if they're not on bail.
Sherlock gave back all the stolen jewels,
And then he was asked on the CBS News!

written by
Stephanie Fried
Age 11
Cranston, Rhode Island

HUGH DUNNIT ASKS:

Who Is It?



Hugh Durnnit, our mysterious mouse detective has listed seven clues to the above question. Using your best detective skills, and a little luck, read one clue at a time (in any order) and see how many clues it takes you to solve the mystery of Who Is It?

- 1) My father was a weaver and a tavernkeeper.
- 2) My name is Cristóbal Colón in Spanish.
- 3) Until my discoveries, everyone thought the world was rounded, but not a complete ball.
- 4) I was born in 1451, but my discovery in October 1492 is more memorable.
- 5) Though quite dear to me, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria were not my girlfriends!
- 6) The Spanish monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand, gave me 3 ships to make my great ocean voyage.
- 7) I found a beautiful island called Guanahani, but I renamed it San Salvador.

(answer on page 27)

Sussex Surprise

by Sae Dalton



WHILE EVERYONE WAS SNACKING, DR. WATSON AND YOUR SISTER **PORTIA** WERE ABLE TO **RESCUE** MR. HOLMES.

WHY ISN'T PORTIA HERE WITH US TONIGHT?



SHE'S BACK HOME INVESTIGATING THE CASE OF WILSON, THE NOTORIOUS CANARY...

CHIRP!



BUT IT WAS PORTIA WHO DISCOVERED MORIARTY RELAXING IN A COFFIN AND SUCKING ON A **BLOOD POPSICLE**.

Yummy

GASP!



SHE WAS LUCKY TO ESCAPE!

ACTUALLY, THIS UNDEAD FIEND COULD BE ALMOST ANYWHERE

I TH-TH-INK THE GROUND IS M-M-M-MOVING, UNCLE HAMLET..



SOMETHING'S CRAWLING AROUND JUST UNDER THE GROUND, PUCK

IT'S HIM!
IT'S DRACULA!



YAWN!

IS IT FEBRUARY YET?

R.I.P. BRAM SIKER



J. Decker

Announcing the Chester Baskerville Society 3rd Annual Art Contest



To enter this year's contest, send your creation to us on an unlined sheet of paper. Please be sure to add your name, address and age to the artwork.

Our 1992 theme will be:

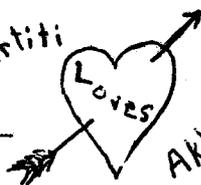
**Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson
The Dynamic Duo!**

All artwork must be received by December 31, 1992 in order to qualify for judging. All winning entries will be published in forthcoming issues of "Holmes For The Holidays", so sharpen those pencils or crayons and get drawing!

The Code Clinic

-Test Time-

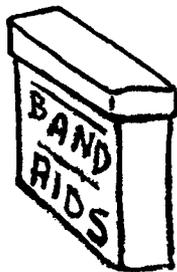
Nefertiti



Akhenaton



Our editor asked us to create Halloween puzzle for this issue. Using one of the codes highlighted in a past chapter of "Code Clinic", decode the answer to our riddle below. If you need a hint, the answer page (page 27) has the code key as well as the punchline. Happy Decoding!



WHAT DID THE MUMMY DETECTIVE SAY?

answer: DO'N ODHZ OJ RMVK PK OCDN HTNOZMT.



Animated Answers

All "Holmes for the Holidays" subscribers already know that Walt Disney Pictures filmed the animated feature "The Great Mouse Detective". Their next film, "Aladdin", is due in your local theatre in November. This brings their total of animation features to 31!

Below we've listed some very popular films spanning the last 55 years. Can you pick out 30 Disney animated feature length productions from our list? For those of you Disney addicts out there, name as many as you can - without looking at our list! Even your editor failed to name all 31!

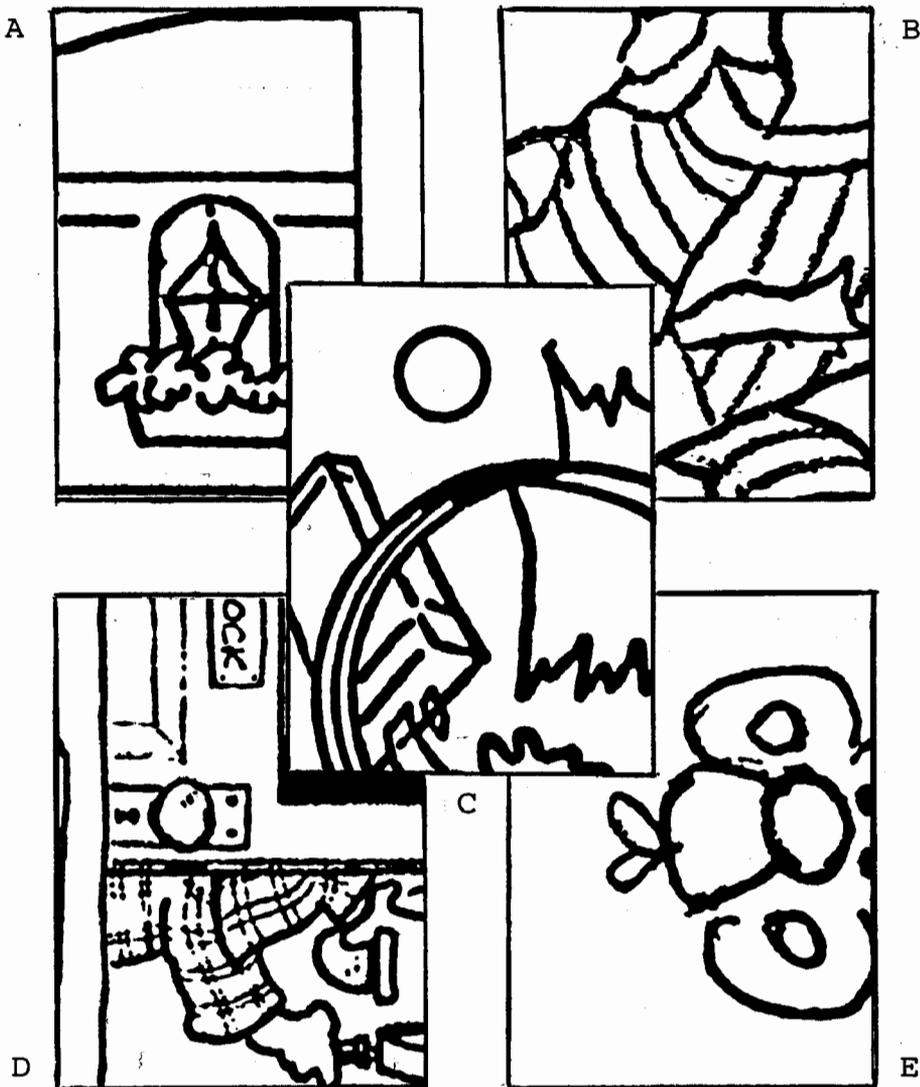
(Answers on page 27)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Land Before Time | 21. Charlotte's Web |
| 2. The Fox And The Hound | 22. Fantasia |
| 3. Make Mine Music | 23. The Rescuers |
| 4. Lady And The Tramp | 24. Bambi |
| 5. Alice In Wonderland | 25. Robin Hood |
| 6. Beauty And The Beast | 26. The Aristocats |
| 7. The Sword In The Stone | 27. 101 Dalmations |
| 8. The Three Caballeros | 28. Ferngully |
| 9. An American Tail | 29. Saludos Amigos |
| 10. Rock-A-Doodle | 30. Oliver & Company |
| 11. The Little Mermaid | 31. Doctor Doolittle |
| 12. Fun And Fancy Free | 32. Dumbo |
| 13. The Jungle Book | 33. Sleeping Beauty |
| 14. Feivel Goes West | 34. Melody Time |
| 15. The Black Cauldron | 35. Quackbusters |
| 16. Pinocchio | 36. Cinderella |
| 17. The Secret of N*I*M*M*H | 37. Peter Pan |
| 18. Snow White And The
Seven Dwarfs | 38. All Dogs Go To
Heaven |
| 19. The Many Adventures
of Winnie The Pooh | 39. The Great Mouse
Detective |
| 20. The Adventures of
Ichabod and Mr. Toad | 40. The Rescuers
Down Under |

"Thou Art Too Close!" II

The pictures below may look a bit familiar. They are close-up views of some of the characters in this issue of "Holmes For The Holidays". See if you can tell who each piece of art represents. As a hint, we've provided the page numbers (below and upside down) where they can be found.

(Answers on page 27)



The Case of the Mysterious Man

by

Eric Dalton, age 10

Early one morning in November, Mrs. Hudson came in and said, "A lady named Lydia Higgins is at the door. She wants to see you."

Holmes said, "She can't come from where she is, so show her in."

Soon there entered a tall woman, with beautiful eyes, a small mouth, and a very soft voice. She sat down and said, "A man has been following me. Every time I turn around, he ducks behind something. There's only one tree in the park near here, and when I went back to ask him why he was bothering me, there was nobody there! Besides, the tree is very little and barely big enough to hide behind. Could you check the area?"

"Yes, I will," Holmes said.

"Thank you, Mr. Holmes," she replied.

Holmes began by looking around the tree. He noticed that a set of male footprints stopped at the trunk. He also saw fingerprints. When he got back to his office, he ran through the files. He found the fingerprints, but they didn't have a name on them.

Later, Miss Higgins came in. She said, "I saw him again. I'm not sure what he had in his hands. Do you think I should take a different way home here in London?"

Holmes said, "Yes. There is a train that goes by the park, right?"

She said, "Yes."

"Then take it," Holmes said.

That day, Holmes was watching the tree in the park while waiting for Miss Higgins to approach. He went up to it and inspected it again. All of a sudden, Watson yelled, "She's here!"

As she entered the train, Holmes and Watson boarded it on the opposite side. Someone was following her. Holmes looked back and saw a figure behind him. His hair was black and he had a moustache.

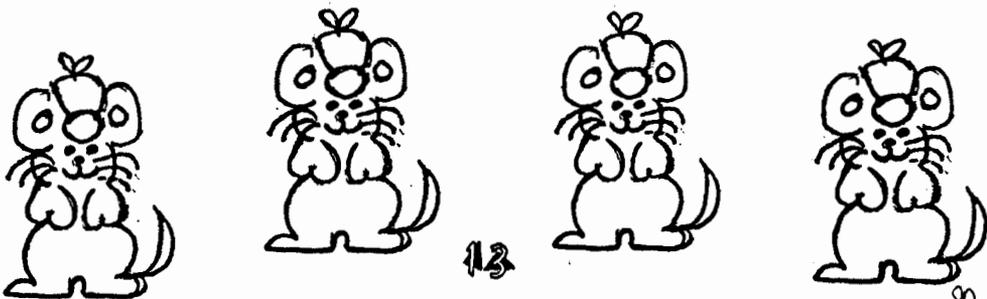
Holmes stood facing the corner of the small hallway, and just as the man approached Miss Higgins, he quickly turned around and grabbed the man's hands so he couldn't do anything with the big knife he was carrying. Holmes asked, "What is your name?"

The man said, "Christopher Jenkins."

An hour later, after the police had taken Christopher Jenkins away, everyone was at Holmes' office. He explained the mystery: "I knew that the tree was involved with the man's disappearance. Jenkins would lift up a trap door under the tree and enter a cave underground. That is how he disappeared. Now, the reason he was following you, Miss Higgins, was because you refused to marry him once, and he got very mad. He knew that you were going on the train because he listened outside our window. I deduced he was there, and that is how I was able to set up the trap."

Lydia said, "That's amazing, Mr. Holmes."

"Thank you." Holmes replied.





"Five whole dollars--Yes. One, two, three, four, five," Sam Holmes counted out loud as he rode with his father, and his goofy younger cousin Jody, to the flea market. He had been saving for an important baseball card and today it would be his.

Jody wasn't impressed. She was staring out of the side window enjoying the trees that wore the bright autumn colors of red, orange and gold. It was October 31, Halloween, and a grand day full of fun things to do.

Sam's father just seemed to mumble on and on about putting the five dollars into a savings account and watching it grow.

Nope, the baseball card would be Sam's. A smile stretched all the way across his face as they pulled into the rocky parking lot.

"Look, look," Jody pointed and squealed with excitement. "Look at the horses and that odd wagon."

Father was too busy hunting for a parking spot in the crowded lot to notice the unusual vehicle.

For some strange reason, Sam could not take his eyes off of it. It stood at the end of the lot under some shade trees. It wasn't a covered wagon, the kind he saw in cowboy movies. The tall wagon was painted in bright colors. It had sides and a roof all of wood, and a lantern hanging from the corner. Even the horses looked unusual--a pinkish color with deep grey spots. Sam was hurrying to get into the building, but wasn't watching where he was going and he bumped into the door. Jody laughed at him.

Father said, "Are you all right, Sam? Watch where you're going. I'm going to look for fishing gear, and I'll meet you kids back here in an hour. Jody, stay with Sam."

"Just great! Jody has to come with me," Sam muttered. Most of the time they are best of pals, being exactly twelve months apart. But sometimes a ten-year-old girl can be a pain, especially when you are going to make a special purchase.

Sam hurried between the cluttered aisles, dragging Jody past the Barbie doll clothes and the shiny jewelry. Sam found the Baseball stand which always had the best bargains.

As he started his hunt for the prize card he had waited for so long, he could

feel someone staring at him from a stand further down. He turned around slowly and his brown eyes met the black eyes of a strange looking lady waving at him. "Certainly, she couldn't mean me." But Sam didn't see anyone around him looking at the dark-haired lady.

He tried to concentrate on the baseball cards, but still he wondered about the mysterious woman.

"Oh, what could it hurt." Sam stuffed the five dollars back into his pocket and edged his way through the crowd to the strange lady. Jody grabbed onto Sam's shirt so she wouldn't be left behind.

The woman's black eyes seemed to twinkle as she smiled at Sam. The mysterious lady was covered with gold coin jewelry, so she jingled with each movement. Sam had never seen anyone like her before.

She spoke softly, "Sam, I thought you would never get here. I've brought you a gift. Er, rather a purchase---all the way from London, England."

The strange lady wasn't making much sense, and how did she know his name? Jody stayed behind Sam, peaking around his shoulders. Sam thought this was too weird and began thinking of leaving for his beloved baseball card. Just at that moment, the lady's jingling hands reach for a woolen blanket under her small table.

Sam couldn't move. He started to put together the things that he had seen ---the painted wagon and horses, the dark-haired lady, and the noisy jewelry. Why, she was a gypsy, and gypsies come from Europe. And England IS in Europe!

Carefully the gypsy lady unwrapped the blanket. There was a leather carrying case--sort of like a small suitcase. The leather was old, but in good condition, and the gold trim was faded with age. The case even smelled musty and made Jody sneeze.

"It is yours for five dollars."
(Just the amount Sam had in his pocket.)

Sam couldn't believe what he was hearing. "If she thinks I am going to give up my baseball card for a suitcase, she's crazy!" Sam thought to himself. But he still didn't turn and walk away.

"It is very special, Sam." The slender-looking hand swept away the dust near the lock and there were the letters "S. Holmes" imprinted in the leather. "See, Sam, this belongs to you, I can see special things inside just for you."

"Well, open it." Sam said boldly.

"I wish I could, but I can't-- My name is not S. Holmes. The lock will only open for you."

Sam thought, "There must be a million S. Holmeses in the world--Why is she picking on me."

"O.K., I'll open it then", said Sam.

"Five dollars first please."

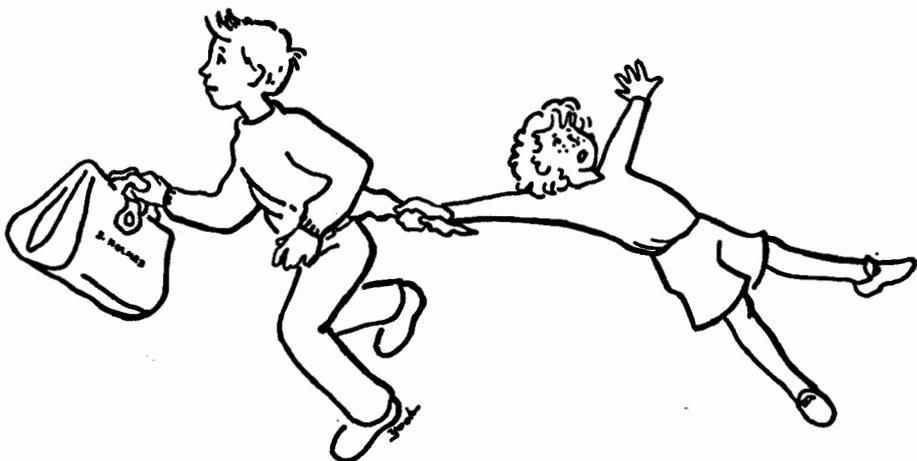
Sam didn't seem to be getting anywhere. His hour was almost up, and he still didn't have his baseball card. This lady was giving him a headache, and now he had to make a decision he didn't want to make. The card he had saved so hard for or the mysterious items in a locked case.

The temperature in the building seemed to be 100 degrees, and it felt like Sam and the strange lady were the only two people in it. All he could hear was the beating of his heart. Sam felt

his hand reach for the five dollars and give it to the gypsy.

"Good boy," laughed the gypsy. "By the moonlight you will see."

"With that, Sam grabbed the case and fled for the door and his father. Jody practically flew out of her shoes trying to hang onto Sam's shirt.



Back at home, Sam made a speedy exit from his family and headed for his room, leaving his father shaking his head over the unpurchased baseball card. Jody, being sure not to miss anything, beat him to his room.

"Now, to open my case," said Sam. He gently tried to open the lock, but with no success. He then tried harder. In the end, Sam found himself beating the case on the floor, but it still would not open. "Jody, we got took!" Sam said with great disgust.

Jody said, "Maybe someone else will buy it for five dollars, and then you can still get your baseball card." For some

reason, Sam didn't get much comfort out of what she said.

"No one with half-a-brain will buy this stupid locked case!" With that, Sam kicked the leather black bag across the room.

"Come on Jody, let's get ready to go trick-or-treating." And with that, both children raced to another part of the house.

Darkness came early that evening and the full moon lingered in the sky waiting for goblins and witches to appear.

"Hurry up, Jody, before the whole neighborhood runs out of candy," Sam said in his giant alligator suit with the tail that always got in his way.

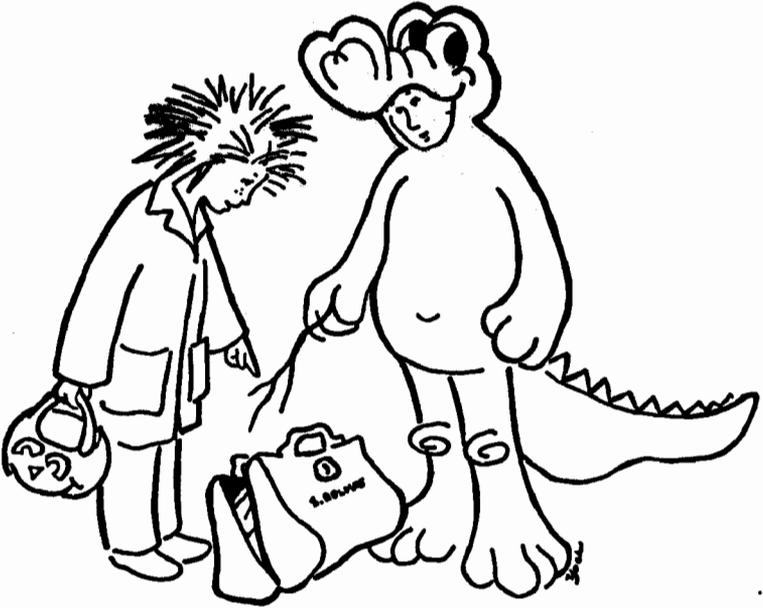
"Keep your tail on -- I'm almost ready," Jody squealed as she adjusted her mad-doctor wig and white laboratory coat in Sam's backyard. "Pretty scary, don't you think?"

"Well, it's hard to tell you're a doctor--You need a black medicine bag. And I just happen to know where one is."

Before Jody could tell Sam that his black bag was too large (and her plastic jack-o-lantern candy holder was all she could carry), he had returned with the "S. Holmes" bag.

As he plopped the case down between them, a strange thing happened. The lock clicked and the suitcase opened. "Oh my," muttered Jody. "'By the moonlight you will see.'"

"The gypsy's words," gulped Sam. "Well, I guess since my name is on it, I'll open it." And Halloween and trick-or-treating was, for the moment, forgotten



Sam found a stick near by and pried the case apart slowly, revealing in the bright moonlight, items that might have belonged to another very famous "S. Holmes". In fact, the treasures inside looked as if they came right from Sherlock Holmes' closet. The plaid hat, magnifying glass, cape, and pipe almost glowed in the eerie light. There were also fountain pens and notepads engraved with "S. Holmes'.

"Look, look Sam," Jody was squealing again. "There's MY name on that funny small black bag--'J. Watson'--Jody Watson."

"Oh Jody, this is really weird."

Both children just stood there in the moonlight staring at the objects before them. Sam took his alligator costume off and slowly began taking things out of the bag. Jody ripped off her wig and scrambled to peak inside too.

In the smaller bag she found old medical instruments. Jody put the antique stethoscope around her neck.

"Now, if only I had a moustache", Jody said as she danced around excitedly, "I could pretend to be the famous Dr. John Watson and you could be Sherlock Holmes."

Sam was more cautious as he placed the cape over his shoulders and the hat on his head. As soon as everything was in place, a funny thing happened. A breeze, no, it was more like a strong gust of wind came from nowhere and almost knocked them off their feet.

Their thoughts of Sherlock Holmes were interrupted by a crying sound. It was coming from near Sam's house, on a sidewalk next to the street. Sam and Jody came running to the sound, cape and stethoscope flapping behind them.

There on the sidewalk was little Tommy Brown and his big ugly brother 'Duke'. Duke, who's real name was Dorchester the III, was a bully and Tommy was a whiner.

"Hey, where did ya get those stupid looking Halloween costumes, freaks," sputtered Duke. "And look at the cape-- Shouldn't it be black, Batman?"

Before Sam could straighten Duke out, Tommy was crying hysterically.

"Are you hurt, Tommy?" Jody wanted to know.



"No," he sobbed, "My trick-or-treat candy is gone."

"Oh, he's just being a baby. I've got no time for crying little kids, I don't know where his candy is. I'm going home to eat my candy, and he can't have any. Tommy, you can stay here with these guys in the silly costumes." And Duke laughed and disappeared through some bushes headed for the house next door.

"Well, that's a fine how-do-you-do!," exclaimed Jody.

Sam smiled and became all excited. "Don't you see, Jody, this is our first case."

"Case, what are you talking about!"

"The 'Case of the Missing Candy'."

Before Jody could disagree, Sam had grabbed Tommy's hand and drug him down the street.

"But what about our trick-or-treat candy, Sam?" Jody whispered as she trailed behind them.

"First, we must recreate the scene of the crime," Sam said.

Tommy told Sam which houses he had stopped at to get candy.

Sam suddenly had the urge to ask questions and they just came tumbling out of his mouth. "Are you sure people really did give you candy? Did a goblin or monster sneak up behind you and take your candy? Did a witch fly down from the sky and take your candy? Were you with other kids who could have taken your candy? Did Duke take your candy?" Now the last question had possibilities.



Sam kept right on taking notes on his yellowed pad of paper. Tommy's answers didn't give them any leads to solving the puzzle.

"Sherlock, I mean Sam. Are you sure the candy is missing from Tommy's bag?" Jody asked.

With that, Sam made Tommy turn his paper trick-or-treat shopping bag upside down. All eyes were fixed on the ground waiting for the candy to fall out of the bag and onto the grass.

"Yep, Dr. Watson, I mean, Jody. Just as Tommy said, no candy."

As the children retraced Tommy's trick-or-treat route, the children talked about the missing candy and why they were calling each other Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson when they really didn't mean to. The solving of the mystery became so important that they forgot about their own trick-or-treating.

Tommy thought Sam and Jody were acting too weird. Even if it was Halloween.

He thought maybe it was time to go home, and have Mom make Duke give him some of Duke's candy.

"Sherlock, if no one took the candy, then what happened to it?"

"Elementary, my dear Watson."

Both Sam and Jody just looked at each other in awe as the phrases came out of their mouths. And with a snap of his finger, Sam had solved the mystery.

"By the moonlight you will see," whispered Sam.

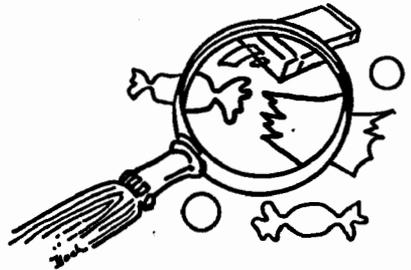
And there in the bright moonlight the children could see tiny glittering objects in the grass before them. All three children ran as fast as they could to the small shiny pieces. There in the grass was one of Tommy's candy bars. And not too far away was another and another. Soon the whole trail of candy was found.

"Look at this Mr. Holmes."

"What is it Dr. Watson?"

Both Sam and Jody looked at each other and yelled at the same time, "Now stop that!"

There, mixed with the candy, wrapped in colorful paper, were pieces of brown wet paper. Sam got out the magnifying glass. He nodded in approval that his solution was correct.



"Before you is the answer my good friends. Tommy turn your bag over."

And sure enough, there were holes in the bottom of the paper shopping bag.

"We were so busy earlier watching for candy to fall from the bag, that we didn't examine the bag itself. Tommy is

short, and he must have been dragging his bag in the grass that was wet from dew."

Everyone helped Tommy gather up his candy and take him home to his grateful mother and his brother Duke (who had to go to bed with a stomachache from eating too much candy).

Sam and Jody ended up in Sam's backyard next to the black leather case, without any trick-or-treat candy. But still it was a wonderful night full of Halloween surprises. They still didn't know exactly how they became detectives or why solving the mystery had become so important and so much fun.

"Well, goodnight Dr. Watson," Sam Holmes laughed.

"Goodnight Sherlock Holmes," Jody Watson giggled.

But with another gust of wind the children's eyes got as big as the moon that hung over them. For there in the bright light were their shadows. Sam's was very tall, wearing a hat with two bills, a cape and smoking a pipe. Jody's shadow was definitely not the shadow of a young girl, but rather of an older rounder gentleman with a moustache.

"Goodnight Sam and Jody!"



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It's Elementary

Billy's Page (page 3)

Sherlock riddle answer: It reads - The
DIAMONDS (\diamond 's) ARE (r) here.
The diamonds are in the trunk.

Question #1 - answer: A dead ringer!

Question #2 - answer: She couldn't
look in the mirror to comb her
hair.

Hugh Dunitz Asks: "Who Is It?" (page 4)

This issue's mystery subject is better known as Christopher Columbus. As you are probably already aware, this year we are commemorating the 500th anniversary of his discovery of "America". Little is known of his early life, but he undoubtedly went to sea at an early age. Believing he could reach the rich nations to the East by sailing West, he found sympathetic patrons in the king and queen of Spain. Sherlock Holmes was well aware of Columbus' important adventures and deduced his identity using only one clue (#4). Dr. Watson needed three clues (#1, #7, & #5). Inspector Lestrade solved the mystery with two (#3 & #4). Congratulations Inspector on some lucky picks!

The Code Clinic (page 9)

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ
VWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTU

answer: It's time to wrap up this
mystery.

Animated Answers (page 10)

The non-Disney films are:

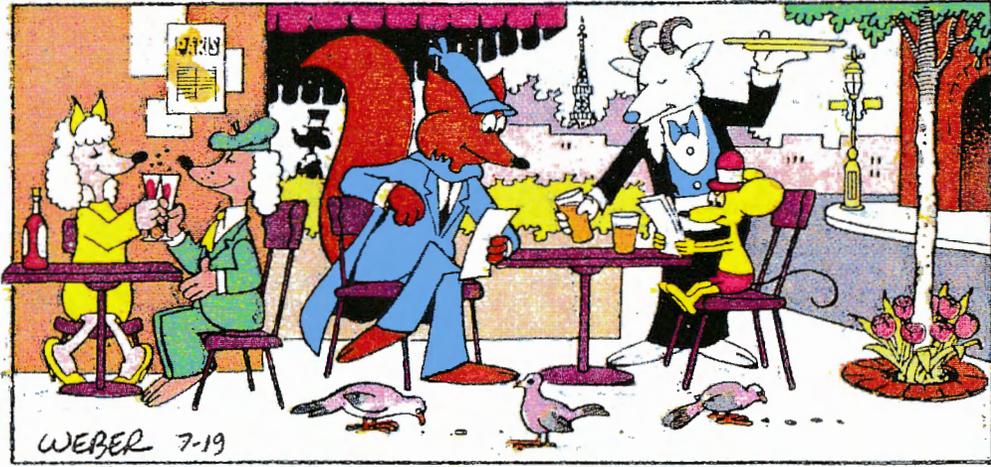
1, 9, 10, 14, 17, 21, 28, 31, 35, 38

Thou Art Too Close II (page 11)

A - 14, B - 9, C - 24, D - 6, E - 13

Slylock fox

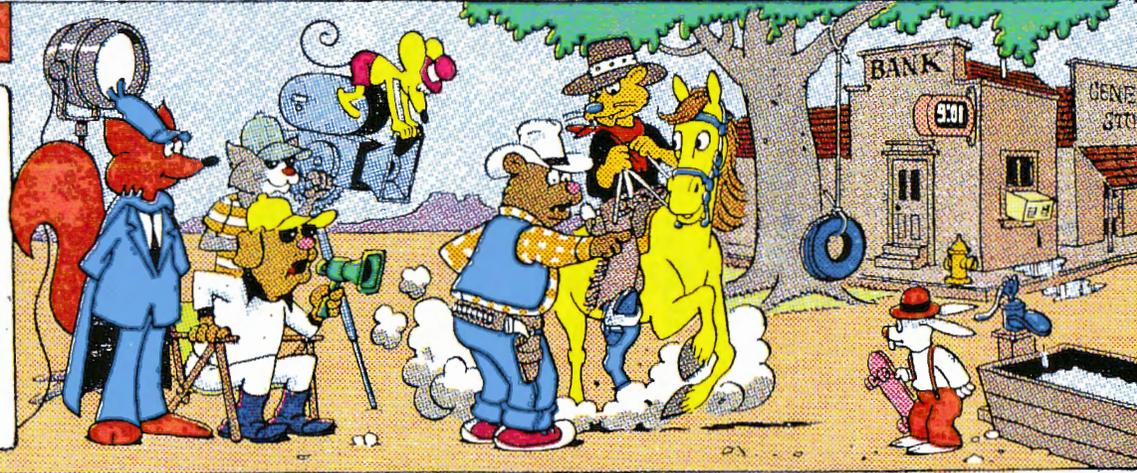
A lone thief stole a priceless diamond from a Paris auction house this morning. Slylock Fox has the names of three tourists who are suspects. Mr. Smith says he spent the morning at the Eiffel Tower. Mr. Jones claims he was visiting the Louvre Museum and Mr. Marcus insists he was photographing the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Which suspect is guilty?



Solution—When Slylock informed Mr. Marcus France, the suspect confessed to stealing the diamond.

SLYLOCK FOX

Slylock Fox and Max Mouse are watching the filming of an old western. There are items in the scene that do not belong. How many can you find?



Solution—The fire hydrant, tire, air conditioner, digital clock, skateboard, and sneakers were not part of the Old West.