

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



FOR THE YOUNG MYSTERY FAN

WELCOME TO HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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BILLY'S PAGE



In "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder", Sherlock Holmes builds a smoky fire to scare Jonas Oldacre out of his hiding place. Fire is indeed a scary problem. Mr. Holmes always warns kids and grown-ups of the following things they can do to help protect themselves from fires.

Know two ways to get out of your house.

Know your address and how to call the Fire Department.

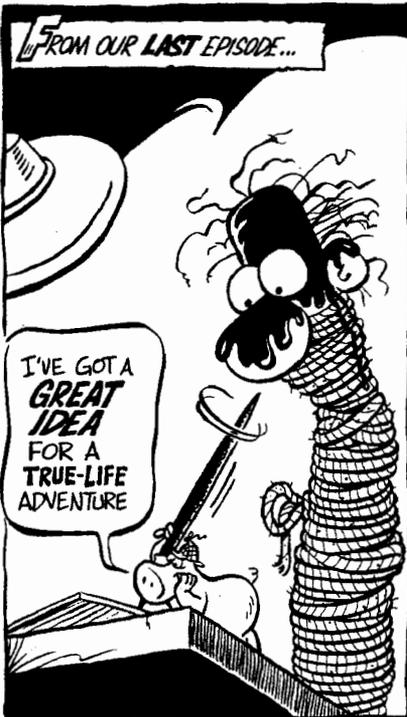
If your clothes catch on fire, **STOP, DROP** to the floor and cover your face with your hands, then **ROLL** around until the fire is out.

Decide on a common meeting place outside and practice this with you family.

Remind Mom and Dad to keep fresh batteries in their smoke detectors.

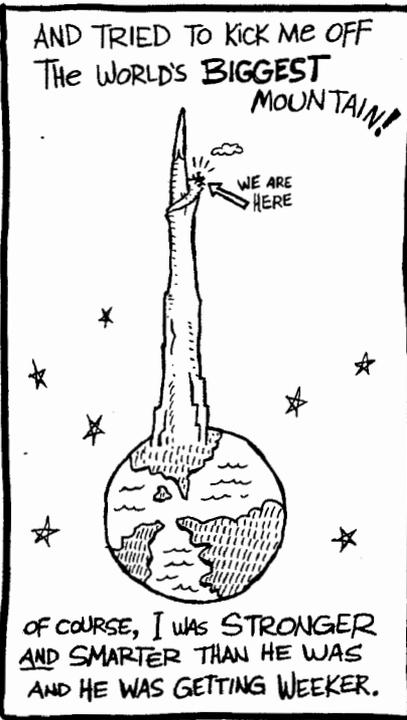
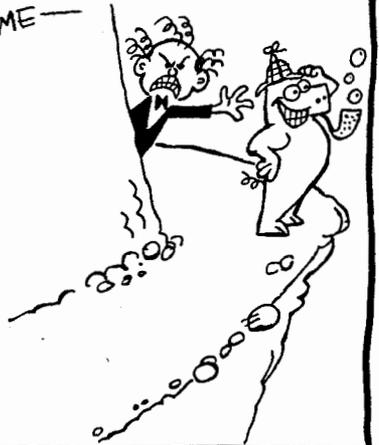
If you hear the smoke alarm or smell smoke, crawl to the door and feel it. If it's **HOT**, **DON'T OPEN IT**. Stuff a towel or blanket under the door to keep the smoke out. Use a window to make your escape.

Once you are outside and safe from the fire, **STAY OUTSIDE!** Nothing is important enough for you to risk your life by going back in.



HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

BY BATTLING THE FORCES OF EVIL IN A CARTOON STRIP! WHILE I WAS ENJOYING THE PRETTY VIEW, Prof. WOOLY MONTY SNUCK UP BEHIND ME —



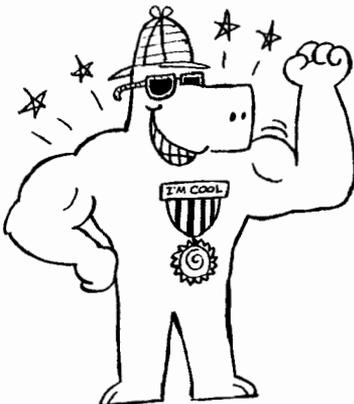
I SWUNG MY BIGGEST
BUBBLE PIPE AROUND AND
SMASHED IT OVER PROFESSOR
MONTY'S WOOLY HEAD.



AND THEN
I PUFFED
HIM OUT OF MY
PIPE AND UP
INTO THE HOT,
HOT SUN WHERE
HE SUN-BURNED
HIS TOOTSIES!



FOR BEING SO BRAVE, STRONG
AND SMART I WAS AWARDED
THE INTERNATIONAL SHERLOCK
HOLMES MEDAL FOR BEING THE
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE!



AND THEY NAMED A WHOLE COUNTRY
AFTER ME — PIGGSYLVANIA.



PIGGERTON THE ARTISTIC PIG.



HUGH DUNNIT ASKS: WHAT 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 **What Is it?**

- 1) One tradition holds that I was invented by the 5th-century BC Greek scientist Archytas of Tarentum.
- 2) I have been used among Asian people since ancient times.
- 3) Three commonly used types of me are the three sticker, the malay, and the box.
- 4) I am also the name of a bird and an ancient Egyptian unit of weight.
- 5) I was used in a very famous experiment of Benjamin Franklin's in 1752.
- 6) In China the ninth day of the ninth month is a festival called "Climbing the Heights" when grown-ups as well as children use me.
- 7) When I am musical, some say I can be used to frighten away evil spirits.

Answer on page 23.



Color the
Napoleon
of
Crime



The Queen's English

Although the English language is spoken by both British and American people, different names are often given to the same item. For instance, did you know that in Britain, an apartment is called a flat, and a bathrobe is called a dressing gown?

Below are American and British names for a variety of things. Match the pairs which describe the same item. If the pairs are matched correctly, a message will be spelled out by the correct answers.

AMERICAN

_____ Band-Aid
_____ cookie
_____ checkers
_____ hamburger bun

_____ closet
_____ suspenders
_____ slingshot
_____ washcloth

_____ flashlight
_____ French fries
_____ thread
_____ potato chips

_____ elevator
_____ hamburger meat
_____ stove

BRITISH

D. bap
N. draught
O. biscuit
L. elastoplast

B. catapult
R. face flannel
O. cupboard
N. braces

I. torch
G. cotton
E. crisps
D. chips

A. mence
H. lift
S. cooker

_____raincoat
_____pitcher
_____diaper

A. jug
F. mackintosh
L. nappy

_____aisle
_____jail
_____Popsicle

E. goal
N. ice lolly
L. Gangway

_____gas
_____Scotch tape
_____kerosene
_____undershirt

O. sellotape
W. paraffin
D. petrol
N. vest

Message:

----- !

(answer on page 23)



"Look Watson, the game IS a foot!"



OLMES 'N WATSO

A young girl
had a hand in
this death
WATSO



AND she fled
with a small
black dog





The Victorian Ladies

by Richard L. Kellogg

Although Sherlock Holmes always treated women with respect and kindness, he developed a reputation as one who lacked affection for the fair sex. A life-long bachelor, he once commented that "Women are never to be trusted - not the best of them." Like many other notable men of Queen Victoria's age, Holmes thought of females as being mentally and physically weak. Consequently, they were always in need of masculine guidance and protection. Fortunately, this attitude of male superiority has been dying during the past century.

Below are the names of the women who play a prominent role in the Sherlock Holmes adventures. Draw a line which connects the first name with the correct last name. One has been done to get you started. Which of these ladies do you think was Sherlock Holmes's favorite?

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Irene | Morstan |
| 2. Violet | Ronder |
| 3. Kitty | Winter |
| 4. Mary | Tregennis |
| 5. Eugenia | Adler |
| 6. Rachel | Stapleton |
| 7. Hattie | Stoner |
| 8. Brenda | Hunter |
| 9. Helen | Doran |
| 10. Beryl | Howells |

(answer on page 23)

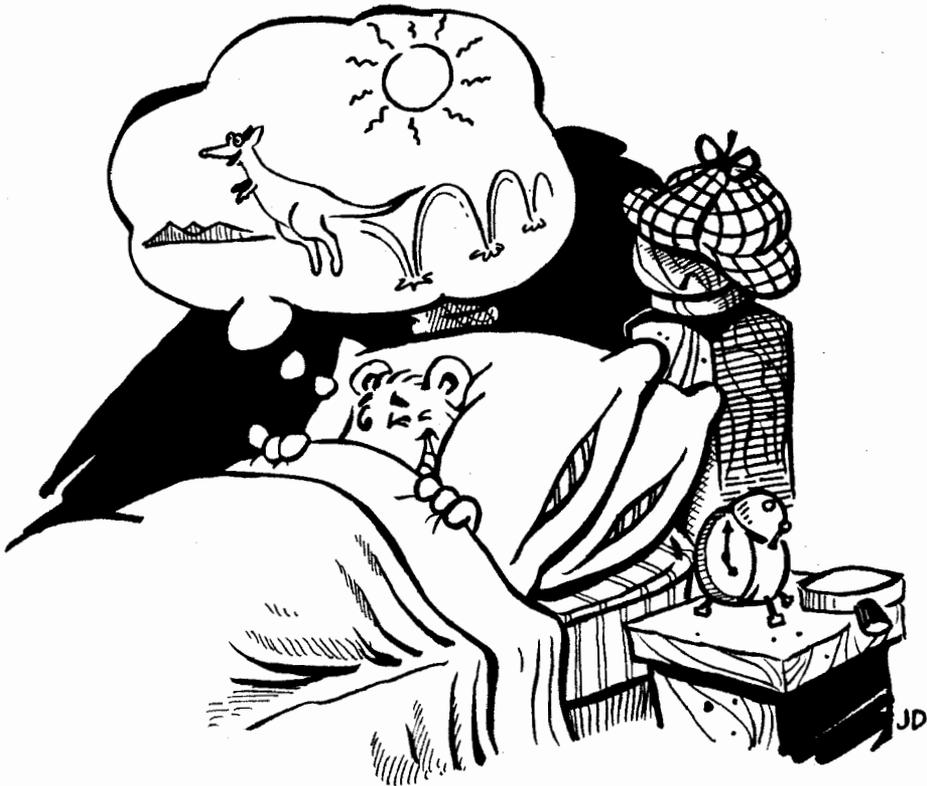
JEREMY WARMS UP

by Susan G. McClure

illustrations by Jeff Decker, B.S.I.

Jeremiah Xaviar Bear snuggled his blanket trying to keep warm. The cold winter was almost over but Jeremy didn't think he could wait for it to end. As he lay there thinking about how cold he was, he decided, "I'll go see Kirby in Australia!"

Jeremy had met Kirby Koala last summer while he was visiting the United States. Before he went home he asked Jeremy to come visit him. Since Australia is on the opposite half of the world from Jeremy, now was the best time to go visit - for while it was winter in Colorado, it would be summer in Australia.



Jeremy felt warmer thinking of it. After he ordered his plane ticket he packed some of his summer clothes. Jeremy looked around the room trying to decide what else he should take. He saw his detective hat and cape. Jeremy had used them more and more lately. Ever since he solved "The Case of the Missing Carrot" for Jasper Rabbit, his friends would often call Jeremy when something was missing or just not right. He also solved cases for relatives of friends. Right before he went to sleep for the winter he had finished two very interesting cases - "The Case of the Spooky Sound" and "The Disappearing Shell". Jeremy decided he would take his hat, cape, and magnifying glass with him. "You never know when you're going to have to solve a mystery," thought Jeremy.

Jeremy said goodbye to his forest friends - that weren't still hibernating (asleep for the winter) and headed for the airport.

When he got there he noticed that it was very busy. Everyone was rushing somewhere. Jeremy wondered if anyone had lost something and needed a detective. Then he remembered why he was there and had to hurry to catch his own plane.

Jeremy got settled on the plane for his long ride and pulled out a magazine from the pocket on the back of the seat in front of him. Since this flight was on its way to Australia the magazines had many articles about "The amazing land down under" ("The land down under" is a nickname for Australia because of its location below the equator.) He got more and more excited as he looked at all the different things there were to see.

Jeremy got out his notebook and pencil and started to write down places he wanted to be sure to visit.

"Let's see. . ." Jeremy said to himself. "They have so many different kinds of animals in Australia. I wonder if Kirby has any good friends who are wombats or Tasmanian devils?" he asked himself while looking at the pictures. "I'm sure he has to know some kangaroos!"



As he got to a section on interesting places to visit he

couldn't believe his eyes. There on the map was the name **HOLMES REEF**. He wondered if it could be named after his favorite detective, Sherlock Holmes. Jeremy did a little reading - "Holmes Reef is near, but not part of, the Great Barrier Reef. A reef is where there is a build up of coral which almost makes up its own little island or wall. Along with the coral are other types of marine creatures and all that remains of other sea animals after they die. The Great Barrier Reef is the greatest mass of coral on earth. It is one of the seven wonders of the world. There are great numbers of seabirds found around this area and in the water can be found giant clams, sea urchins with poisonous spines, small colored fish, oysters, starfish, sponges, turtles, and sea cucumbers." He would ask Kirby if they could go scuba diving there to look at all the pretty rocks and fish.

As he was looking over the map again he saw a name that he recognized. The Musgrave Ritual is the title of one of the Sherlock Holmes adventures and here on the map was a place called **MUSGRAVE RANGES**. This was in the middle of the country. There was also a place called Ayer's Rock, the biggest single rock in the world. It is 2 miles long, 5 miles around and about 1200 feet high.

There were so many things to see and do, Jeremy decided to wait and see what Kirby thought would be the best.

Jeremy was starting to get tired so he put the book down and closed his eyes. He could see the warm beaches in his mind and he fell asleep with pleasant smile on his face.

When he woke up the pilot was announcing that they were just about to land in Australia. Jeremy had slept through the whole trip. He thought to himself, "My body must have needed a little more time to hibernate." But now he was ready to go.

Jeremy had sent a telegram to let Kirby know that he was on his way. He hoped Kirby would be at the airport to meet him.

As he walked off the airplane he could already feel the warm air. It was wonderful. As he looked around he noticed that the airport looked a lot like the one he left in Colorado. "Could it really be as different here as the pictures made it look?" he thought. Then he heard someone yell - "Hey Jeremy! How ya doin' Mate?" It was Kirby. "It is so nice to see a friendly face," thought Jeremy.

Together they picked up Jeremy's suitcases and started for Kirby's car.

"I'm really glad you came when you did," said Kirby. "I just happen to have a little mystery I could use your help with."

"Why don't you tell me what you can about your mystery on our way to your house." said Jeremy.

"Well, it has to do with the eucalyptus trees in my back yard. I'm quite proud of them. Although they are common in Australia, mine are very old and very tall. The other day while I was trimming the lower branches I noticed holes in some of the leaves. They are more like little cuts. I've never seen anything like it before. I asked my neighbor Wanda Wallabie if she had seen anyone nibbling at my trees. She said she hadn't seen anyone near them at all!"

Jeremy could see that Kirby was really worried about his trees. "I'll try to help you find out what the trouble is Kirby. I'm sure we'll be able to get to the bottom of it."

Kirby felt better just hearing those words. As they drove to Kirby's house he pointed out some of the large fruit orchards along the way. There were orange, lemon, peach, and apricot groves lining the road. Kirby told Jeremy that they also grow grapes, mangos, bananas, pineapples, guavas and papaws in Australia.

When they got to Kirby's house he introduced Jeremy to his wife Christine and his son Bradley. He showed Jeremy to the room that he would use and left him there to unpack. When Jeremy came out, he was all set to go look at the trees. He had his hat, his cape and his magnifying glass.

16 "I didn't know you would come prepared!" exclaimed Kirby.

"I don't go many places without at least my magnifying glass. Now which way to those trees?"

They went outside and found Bradley playing ball with a friend and Christine was hanging some wash on the clothesline.

"They are right back here." said Kirby leading Jeremy around the back of the house.



Jeremy took his magnifying glass and climbed the ladder Kirby had leaned against the tree and began to look at the leaves very closely. He climbed down the ladder and looked at the ground around the tree. He picked up a few things and studied them carefully. Then he climbed the ladder again and looked out into the yard.

When he climbed down the ladder Jeremy had a big smile on his face. "Did Bradley get some new toys for Christmas this year?" asked Jeremy.

"Of course," answered Kirby a bit puzzled. "But what does that have to do with my tree?"

"Did he happen to get a new boomerang?"

"Yes he did. But how did you know?" asked Kirby.

"There are two ways I knew. First of all the marks on the leaves are so straight I was pretty sure that nobody was eating them. So I thought to myself, 'What might be hitting these leaves to cut them like this?' and then I remembered something I had seen in a magazine I was looking at while on the plane. It mentioned that boomerangs were a popular item in Australia. I figured Bradley was just about old enough to be getting one for Christmas. The second clue was a little more than a **clue**. I looked around the yard from the top of the ladder and saw a boomerang lying next to the house. I figured since this was a fairly new problem he must have just received the boomerang. Christmas was only a few months ago, and it takes a little practice to learn how to throw a boomerang, I took a lucky guess - I mean, I made my final deduction - and asked if he got one for Christmas."

Kirby smiled, "That's wonderful Jeremy! Now if you will excuse me for a few minutes, I believe I have a son to talk to about where he is allowed to throw this new boomerang."

After a nice supper Kirby and Jeremy sat down to figure out what they were going to do for the next few days.

Kirby pulled out a map of Australia.

"Geel!" exclaimed Jeremy. "I didn't realize Australia was so big. I was hoping to see Holmes Reef, the Musgrave Ranges, Ayers Rock and the beautiful flowering Eucalyptus trees near Perth."

"I'm not sure we'll have enough time to visit all those places, but there are a lot of things we can do that are only a few hours away. Let's see... Here we are in Maryborough - just a little up the coast from Brisbane where your plane landed. I know...we can go visit my friend Doug in Rockhampton. It isn't very far from his house to the southern part of the Great Barrier Reef. I'm sure he knows of some great places to scuba dive or snorkel."

"That sounds wonderful!" said Jeremy. "Please call him to make sure it's okay."

While Kirby left to call his friend, Jeremy sat looking at the map. He still couldn't believe how big Australia was. He had not realized that it was almost the same size as the United States. He read a little note on the map. "Australia is nearly 3 million square miles." As he looked at some of the pictures on the back of the map Kirby returned.

"Doug said he'd love to have us. He wants me to bring Bradley too. He has a son about his age and he thought they would like to see each other again."

They decided to leave the next day and spend a few days there.

The drive up was beautiful. They drove along the shore when possible. For most of the trip they saw the ocean on their right and mountains nearby on the left.

"This is breathtaking!" exclaimed Jeremy. The 7 1/2 hour trip seemed to fly by. They had packed a picnic lunch and stopped on the way to eat it on the beach. After they reached Doug's house Kirby introduced Jeremy to him. They had a nice supper and then sat around and learned more about each other. When it came up that Jeremy did some detective work Doug got a big smile on his face.

"You like being a detective? Great! Something puzzling has been going on around here for a few weeks now! Things have been disappearing.

"Really!" said Jeremy. "I've already solved one mystery for Kirby, I hope I can figure yours out too. You know, a detective can't always find what is missing and why. But I'll do my best." assured Jeremy. "Can you tell me where things have been disappearing from?" he asked.

"Well," said Doug, "Doug Junior - better known as J.R. - has been complaining that he can't find some of his little outside toys. At first I just thought he had misplaced them. Then the other afternoon I saw one of J.R.'s little toys sitting out in the yard. Instead of picking it up myself, I



thought I would help teach him responsibility by making him go out and get it. He was in the house cleaning his room when I told him about it. He promised he would bring it in when he was finished.

It was only fifteen minutes before he got out there, but the toy was gone! J.R. asked his mother if she had picked it up, but she said - she had been busy making supper and had not left the house."

"This sounds very interesting." replied Jeremy. "We'll have to start work on this case first thing tomorrow morning."

When Jeremy left his room the next morning, he had on his cape and hat and had his magnifying glass in his hand. After breakfast they stepped outside and he asked Doug "Can you show me where the toy was the last time you saw it?"

"Sure," said Doug. "It was right over here."

Jeremy looked over the area carefully with his magnifying glass.

"Have all the missing items disappeared from the back yard?" asked Jeremy.

"Most of the toys have," said Doug, "but a few things also seemed to be missing from the east side of the house. The strange thing is" Doug added, "J.R. has noticed that only small toys are missing - a yo-yo, some little cars, and a bouncy ball.

"This all sounds very interesting" said Kirby "Do you need a helper Jeremy?"

"Well," he answered "Sherlock Holmes did have Dr. Watson. Besides - they always say 'Two heads are better than one' so four eyes must be better than two!"

As Jeremy walked around the house he examined the ground closely. Kirby walked ahead of him a little bit. He was very anxious to find a clue.

Suddenly he yelled, "Hey Sherlock...I mean Jeremy.

Look at this, the ground has some pawprints that are definitely not a koala's. A little behind the pawprints is a smooth spot in the dirt. I bet the thief tried to cover up his pawprints by brushing the ground with something."

"It's possible" said Jeremy, "but a good detective finds all the clues he can before making any conclusions." He took out his notebook and wrote down some information.

Jeremy looked around a little more. He saw some clothes hanging on the clothesline, and some empty boxes in the garbage pile next door. A thought came to him, so he made another entry in his notebook.

"Jeremy" Kirby called, "I found another one of those pawprints trying to be covered up. It's all the way over here." It was about 6 feet away from the other one. "He did a good job of erasing the pawprints in between. But he missed these again."

"Not necessarily, Kirby" said Jeremy. "Doug, do you have some new neighbors?"

"Why yes," answered Doug "How did you know?"

"I saw all the boxes in the garbage pile and the only reason I know of for that many boxes is if someone has recently moved. Have you met them yet?"

"I've only talked to them a few times. They seem to be very nice. They are Michael and Jenny Kangaroo. They have a cute little baby named Bobby too."

"Could you introduce me to them please?" Jeremy asked.

"Sure," said Doug. "I think they are home right now." They all walked next door. Doug and Kirby were a bit puzzled. They weren't sure why Jeremy wanted to meet the neighbors.

As Jenny answered the door little Bobby jumped into her pouch.

"Hi Jenny. Hi Bobby," said Doug. "I'd like you to meet some friends of mine. This is Kirby from Maryborough and Jeremy from the United States."

"G'day!" said Jenny. "You've come a long way Jeremy. I hope you are enjoying your visit to Australia."

As he shook paws with Jenny, Jeremy replied, "I just got here a few days ago, but what I've seen of your country has been beautiful. I haven't been very many places yet. I've been busy with some detective work."

"Detective work? Is that why you have that hat and cape on? When I first saw you I thought you looked like Sherlock Holmes."

"You're right. That is who I'm supposed to look like." said Jeremy. "I think my latest mystery involves your family."

"My family?" asked Jenny.

"Yes, I think little Bobby may have been picking up some toys from the yard next door."

Bobby peeked out of Jenny's pouch. He smiled at his mom. Jenny picked him up and reached down into her pouch. She couldn't believe what she found. There were some cars, a yo-yo, and a little ball. Jenny was so embarrassed.



"I thought Bobby was growing and gaining weight. He must have picked these up while I was hanging up the laundry. He always hops around for a few minutes and then jumps back in my pouch while I'm out back. Can you ever forgive us?"

"Don't worry about it." said Doug. "He's just a baby.

There has been no harm done."



"Oh, thank you. I'll keep a much closer eye on him from now on." said Jenny.

"Okay, I'll see you later." said Doug and the neighbors said goodbye.

After they were back at Doug's house Kirby asked Jeremy. "How did you know what was happening?"

Jeremy answered "When looking at the pawprints I thought it might be a kangaroo because the mark behind the paws was not where someone was trying to erase pawprints, but was where a tail was brushing the ground.

The marks were far apart because he jumped. On the clothesline next door I saw some little shirts and when Doug said that they were kangaroos, everything fit together. The baby kangaroo would only take small things that would fit in the pouch. I had already confirmed that they moved here recently which is why things only recently started disappearing."

Kirby and Doug were very impressed.

Jeremy leaned back on the sofa, smiled and replied, "This is just another chapter of the exciting life of a world-traveling detective."

Then they all began to laugh.

IT'S ELEMENTARY - Our Answer Page -

Hugh Dunitz Asks: "What Is It?" (page 6)

Our mystery subject for this issue is "Kites".

"The Queen's English" (page 8)

If you matched the pairs correctly your message should read:

LONDON BRIDGE HAS FALLEN DOWN

The Victorian Ladies (page 12)

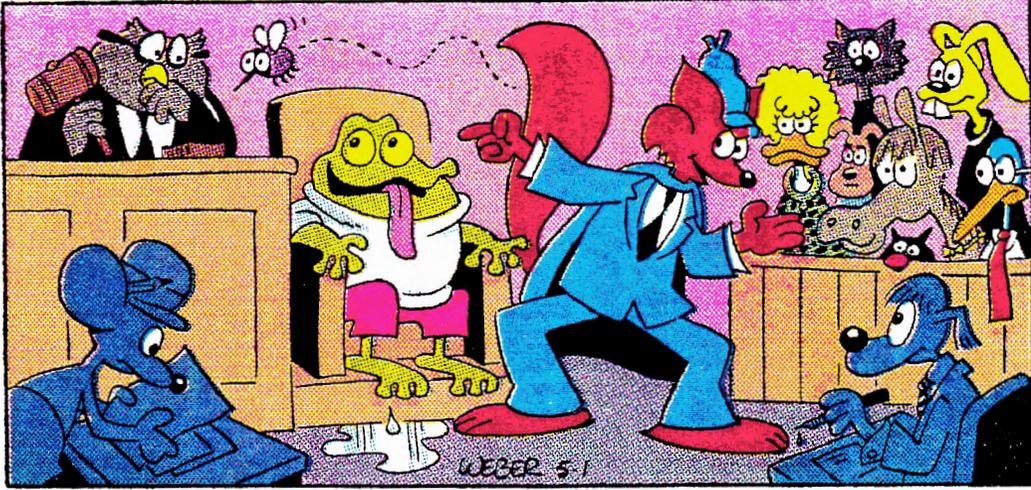
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Irene Adler | 6. Rachel Howells |
| 2. Violet Hunter | 7. Hattie Doran |
| 3. Kitty Winter | 8. Brenda Tregennis |
| 4. Mary Morstan | 9. Helen Stoner |
| 5. Eugenia Ronder | 10. Beryl Stapleton |



SLYLOCK FOX

Benny Bullfrog is accused of shoplifting skin moisturizer from a drugstore. Benny says it's a case of mistaken identity because he was rushing his newborn son to the hospital with a broken leg at the time of the theft. Slylock Fox says the "Slippery Frog" is lying. Why?

Solution - Newborn frogs are called tadpoles. These babies look more like fish than frogs and they are born without legs. Benny's newborn son couldn't break a leg that wasn't there!



The food supply aboard this spacecraft is depleted. The aliens are strictly vegetarians, but green plants are poisonous to their metabolism. Are there plants on earth that may be safe for them to eat? Or will Slylock advise them to try another planet?

Solution - Slylock recommended non-poisonous mushrooms. These fungi plants don't contain green chlorophyll and are quite tasty.

