

# Criminal Record

**Fact**

**The Kennedy Conspiracy: An Uncommissioned Report on the Jim Garrison Investigation.** By Paris Flammonde and Eric Norden. Photographs. \$6.95. This massive work is a veritable encyclopedia, *Who's Who*, portrait gallery, and street directory of the second battle of New Orleans.

**Hex.** By Arthur H. Lewis. Trident. \$4.95. As recently as 1928, if you want to call that recent, a male "witch" plying his craft in Pennsylvania's York County was bludgeoned to death by a man and two teen-aged boys who claimed they had been victims of his occult powers. Since then the practitioners seem to have lost much of their sting, though some of them are still looked on with respect and are occasionally consulted by legal healers. This is a choice bit of off-beat regional Americana.

**Tales of Unease.** Edited by John Burke. Crime Club. \$4.95. These twenty-one stories by twenty-one authors carefully sidestep the horrible and the terrible and run the gamut from the risible to the invisible. An ingenious idea is here carried out with aplomb and sophistication.

**Fiction**

**Monsoon Murder.** By Brian Cooper. Vanguard. \$5.95. This story-within-a-story (both are well handled) is laid in India during and after World War II; the love interest is effectively managed without taking charge of the homicide guaranteed in the title.

**The Singapore Wink.** By Ross Thomas. Morrow. \$5.95. Author registered a bull's-eye with his Opus 1, *The Cold War Swap*, two years ago, and two intervening novels have sustained his reputation; *The Singapore Wink* certifies it.

**Touchfeather.** By Jimmy Sangster. Norton. \$4.95. English air hostess who doubles as an errand girl for Intelligence biggie is here the subject of what you might call an uninhibited autobiography. Lively and not too gruesome.

**The Valentine Victim.** By Dougal McLeish. Houghton Mifflin. \$4.95. Ontario provincial police take over when exurban beauty dies of multiple gunshot wounds. Stick-to-it-iveness carries the day in this well-programmed procedural exercise.

**Mongo's Back in Town.** By E. Rich-  
SR/March 29, 1969

ard Johnson, Harper & Row. \$4.95. Killer-to-order setting up his thirteenth target in a Midwest metropolis finds that even tiny hand guns can throw death; it all adds up to a very messy Christmas.

**The Case of the Deadly Diamonds.** By Christopher Bush. Macmillan. \$4.50. A minor money grab, a sizable gem snatch, and a spot of definitive murder all tie in to set Ludovic Travers, suave London eye, toiling like a Dutch uncle. Pleasantly involved.

**The Evergreen Death.** By James Fraser. Harcourt, Brace & World. \$4.50. Heinous murder and mutilation of English teen-ager brings youthful Detective Inspector Aveyard to the scene of her death in an English village. Author and police both turn in professional jobs here.

**Forfeit.** By Dick Francis. Harper & Row. \$4.95. Fleet Street sports writer, scenting a racing scandal, goes all out to unseat the villain in the piece; a thoroughly delightful tale, whether you like horses or not (you should).

**A Treasury of Great Mysteries.** Edited by Howard Haycraft and John Bee-croft. Doubleday. Two vols. \$7.95. 576 plus 576 should equal 1,152, and that is the sum of the pages you get in this sockdolager of a reprint.

**Homicide in American Fiction 1798-1860.** By David Brion Davis. Cornell University Press. Paperback, \$2.45. Rarely does scholarship raise its head in these criminous precincts, but here we have the genuine article, which first appeared in hard covers in 1957 under the same imprint. —SERGEANT CUFF.



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