

Criminal Record

Fact

Moment of Madness: The People vs. Jack Ruby. By Elmer Gertz. With a preface by Jon R. Waltz, Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law. Follett. \$6.95. Untold millions of TV watchers saw Jack Ruby gun down Lee Harvey Oswald on November 24, 1963. In March 1964 further mil-



lions heard a Dallas jury find Jack Ruby guilty of murder. Elmer Gertz, one of the attorneys for the Ruby family, describes the intricate legal maneuvers that led to a reversal of that verdict. Here we have an essential contribution to the history of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Pinkertons: The Detective Dynasty that Made History. By James P. Horan. Crown. \$4.95. There is a huge mass of documentation about the Pinkertons, some of it prepared by themselves; and Mr. Horan's study provides a fitting capstone to a remarkable set of careers. One of the Pinkertons' earliest triumphs was the saving of Abraham Lincoln's life when he was en route to Washington for his first inauguration.

The North Avenue Irregulars: A Suburb Battles the Mafia. By the Rev. Albert Fay Hill. Cowles. \$4.95. This is a true and sparkling account of how a Presbyterian preacher in New Rochelle, N.Y., mobilized the women of his church in a campaign to track down numbers racketeers, shakedowners, crooked cops, vice peddlers, *et id genus omne*. Wonderful!

Fiction

The Capitol Hill Affair. By Leigh James. Weybright & Talley. \$5.50. When high CIA exec is daunted by eminence of a suspected traitor and begs off, a lesser operative and a gossip-sheet editor join hands to frustrate plot for aiding Chinese Reds. National Press Club cuisine assailed.

SR/December 23, 1968

Moth in a Rag-Shop. By Robert Chambers. Bobbs-Merrill. \$4.95. New York detective, second grade, follows through when female body turns up in lower East Side walk-up. Much of the action is in Puerto Rico. A straightforward police case, and a good one.

Voice from the Grave. By Doris Miles Disney. Crime Club. \$3.95. Doting mother, four times wed, now summering in northern Maine lake country, grieves for missing son who had promised he wouldn't shoot the rapids; she won't take death for an answer. Usual pro performance.

With Malice Toward All. Edited and with a foreword by Robert L. Fish. Putnam. \$4.95. This twenty-third anthology of short stories by members of the Mystery Writers of America is an admirable job, as usual. Five of the tales have never been published before, and the other nineteen merit republication in durable form.

The Corpse Was No Bargain At All. By Hampton Stone. Simon & Schuster. \$4.50. Mac of the New York D.A.'s office sees what he should not see on a Manhattan roof, nor does he realize that the lady's husband lies slain a few miles away.

Death of an Alderman. By John Buxton Hilton. Walker. \$3.95. A yard superintendent and a sergeant team effectively, and without ruffling the feathers of the local police, to solve the killing of an English provincial biggie. A model of its kind.

Commander Amanda Nightingale. By George Revelli. Grove. \$4.95. The heroine of this specialty number, when we first meet her, is guest of honor at a banquet where her splendid war rec-

ord as a British spy is brought forward from the evil days.

The Deadly Eurasian. By Alexander Cordell. Weybright & Talley. \$5.50. A comely and cruel girl, grad of the Peking School of Espionage, is assigned to find out whether a missile that has devastated the Chinese mainland was discharged by accident or by U.S. order.

The Locked Room Reader. Edited by Hans S. Santesson. Random House. \$6.95. These "stories of impossible crimes and escapes" are sixteen in number, plus two that are legitimately called novels. A brilliant idea, brilliantly carried out.

The Mystery of the Cape Cod Players. By Phoebe Atwood Taylor. Norton. \$4.95. This title raises to seventeen the number of Asey Mayo detective yarns that have been restored to availability
—SERGEANT CUFF.

WIT TWISTER #92

By ARTHUR SWAN

The object of the game is to complete the poem by thinking of one word whose letters, when rearranged, will yield the appropriate word for each series of blanks. Each dash within a blank corresponds to a letter of the word.

The minister advised _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ youths

That they were _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ down to fiery coals:

"Cast off your doubts! Embrace
God's Truths!

"And wash the sooty _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ from your
souls!"

(Answer on page 38)

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