

A TREASURY OF XXth CENTURY MURDER

The Lives of
Sacco & Vanzetti



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THE LIVES OF
**SACCO AND
VANZETTI**

◆
THE CRIME

◆
THE EVIDENCE

◆
A GLOBAL
CAUSE

**ANARCHISTS
&
IMMIGRANTS**
!

**VILLAINS
OR
VICTIMS**
?



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
RICK GEARY

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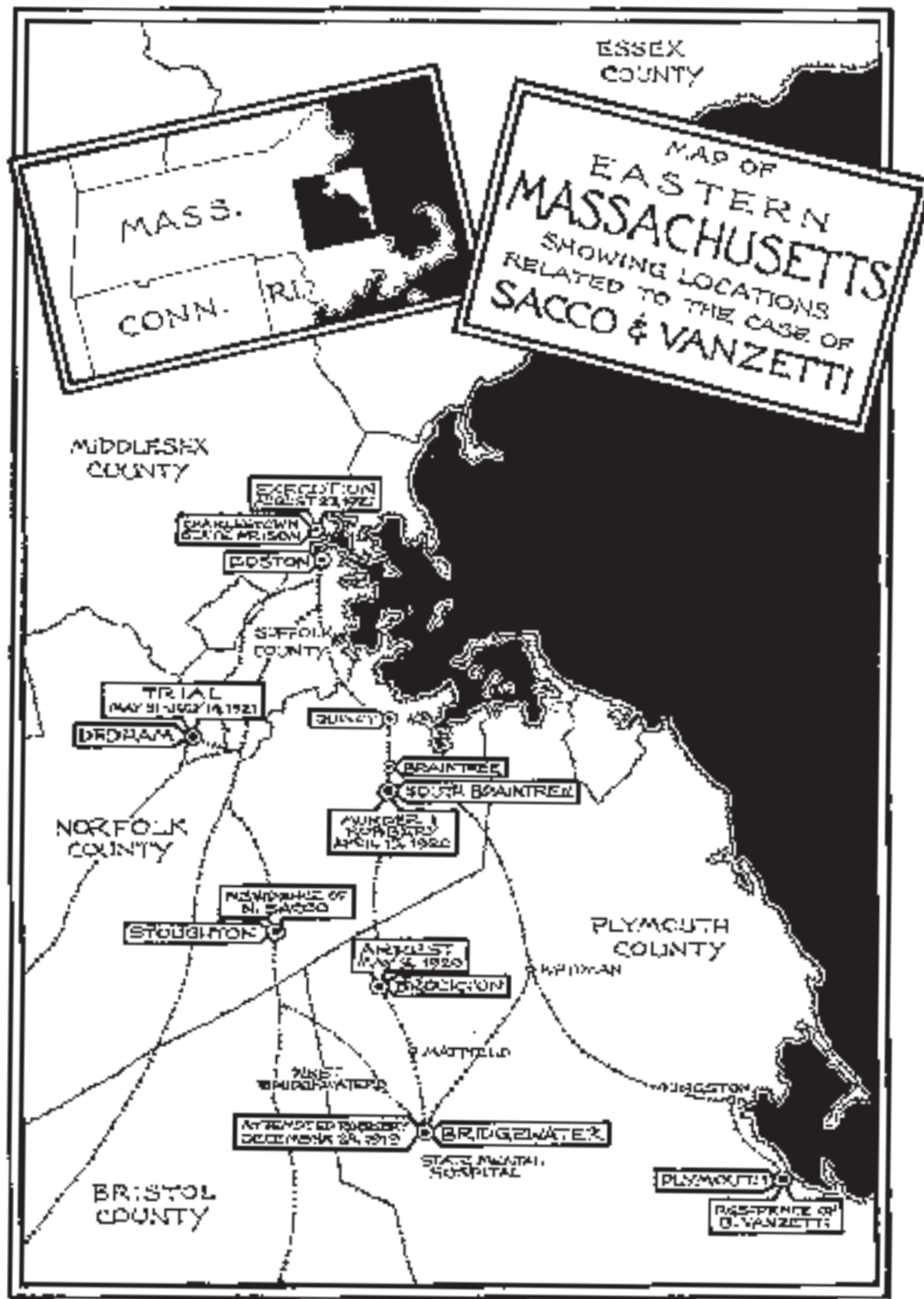
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ESSEX COUNTY

MAP OF
EASTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
SHOWING LOCATIONS
RELATED TO THE CASE OF
SACCO & VANZETTI

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

CHARLESTOWN STATE PRISON
EXECUTION
AUGUST 23, 1927

BOSTON

SUFFOLK COUNTY

TRIAL
MAY 31, 1927

DORHAM

QUINCY

BRAINTREE

SOUTH BRAINTREE

MUNICIPAL PRISON
APRIL 15, 1920

NORFOLK COUNTY

RESIDENCE OF
N. SACCO

STOUGHTON

PLYMOUTH COUNTY

ARREST
MAY 5, 1920

ANDOVER

MATHEW

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY
DECEMBER 24, 1913

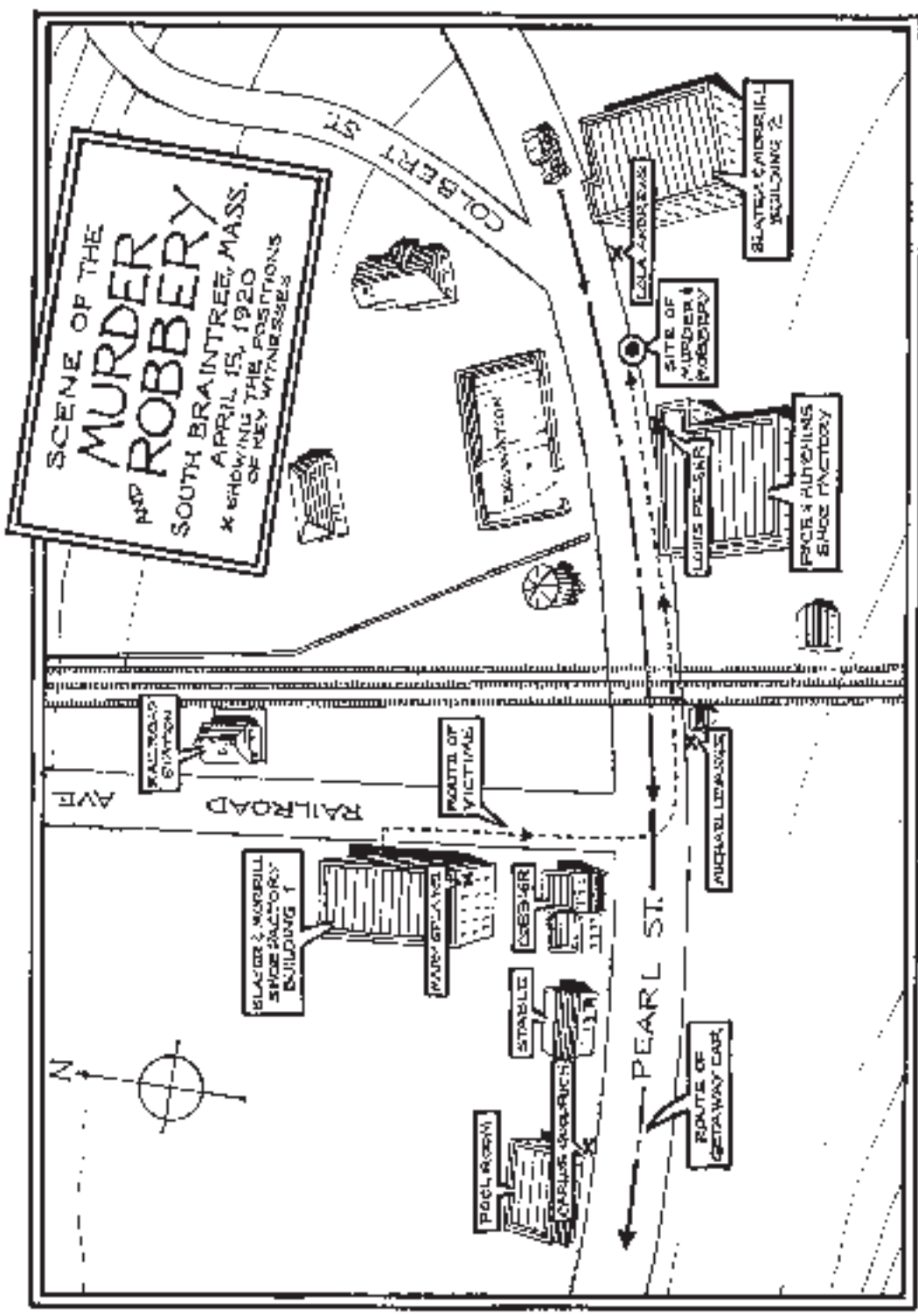
BRIDGEWATER

STATE MENTAL
HOSPITAL

PLYMOUTH

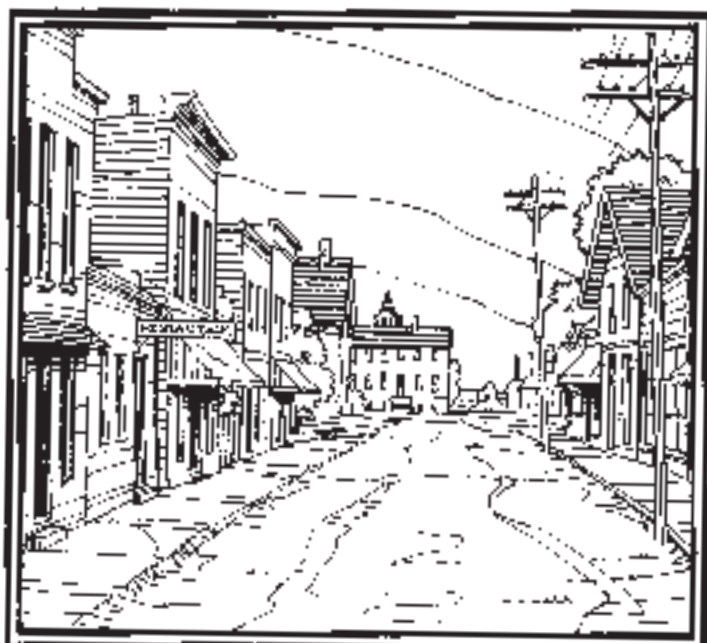
RESIDENCE OF
G. VANZETTI

BRISTOL COUNTY



PART I
THE CRIME

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1920
SOUTH STADTREE, MASSACHUSETTS



THE DAY BEGINS MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER IN THIS QUIET
INDUSTRIAL TOWN TWELVE MILES SOUTH OF BOSTON.

DURING THE MORNING HOURS, AS PEOPLE GO TO THEIR JOBS, MANY OF THEM HAVE THE PRESENCE OF TWO STRANGE MEN TALKING ABOUT THE TOWN.



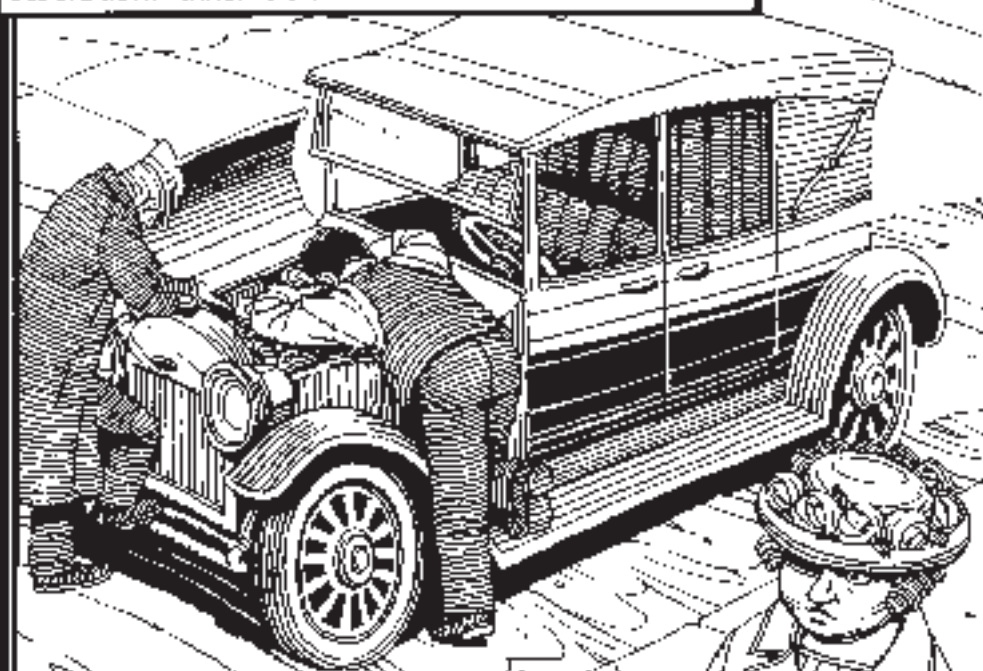
ONE OF THEM IS DARK, FOREIGN-LOOKING.



THE OTHER IS PALE, WITH LIGHT HAIR AND AN UNHEALTHY LOOK.



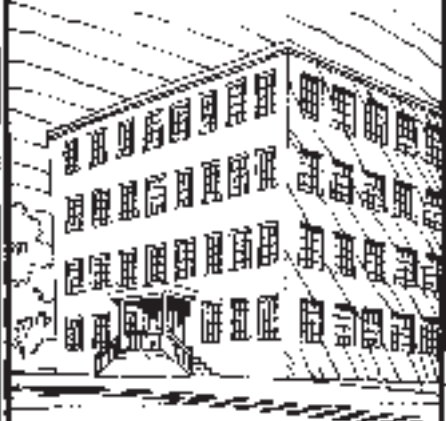
THEY DRIVE A LARGE DARK BLUE CAR, PROBABLY A BUICK, WITH CHROME ORNAMENT AND CURTAINED WINDOWS.



IN THE AFTERNOON IT IS SEEN PARKED ALONG THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARE OF FRANK STREET, AS MEN WORK ON THE ENGINE.



ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN TOWN IS THE SLATER AND MORRELL SHOE FACTORY.



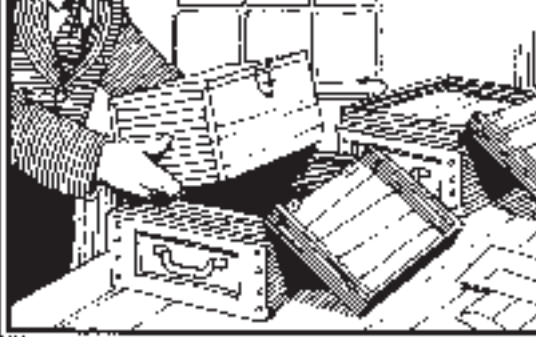
TODAY IS THE DAY WHEN PAY ENVELOPES ARE DISTRIBUTED.

DESPITE RECENT ROBBERIES IN THE AREA THE PAYROLL IS DISBURSED IN CASH.

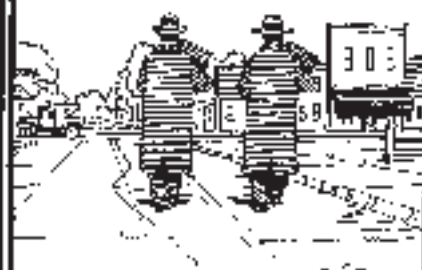


AT THE COMPANY'S BUILDING IS THE ASSISTANT PAYMASTER, FREDERICK WADSWORTH, AND A GUARD, ALESSANDRO BERARDELLI, COLLECT THE MONEY WHICH HAS BEEN SORTED INTO 300 ENVELOPES.

THE ENVELOPES ARE STACKED INTO TWO WOODEN BOXES WHICH ARE PLACED INTO TWO STEEL CASES.



THEIR USUAL AUTO TRAIL UNAVAILABLE, THE MEN WALK WITH THE CASES...



WHICH CONTAIN A TOTAL OF \$15774.31.

THEIR 200-YARD ROUTE TAKES THEM DOWN RAILROAD AVENUE, THEN LEFT UP PEARL STREET, PAST THE RICE & NOTCHING SHOE FACTORY TO SLATER & MORRELL'S BUILDING #2.

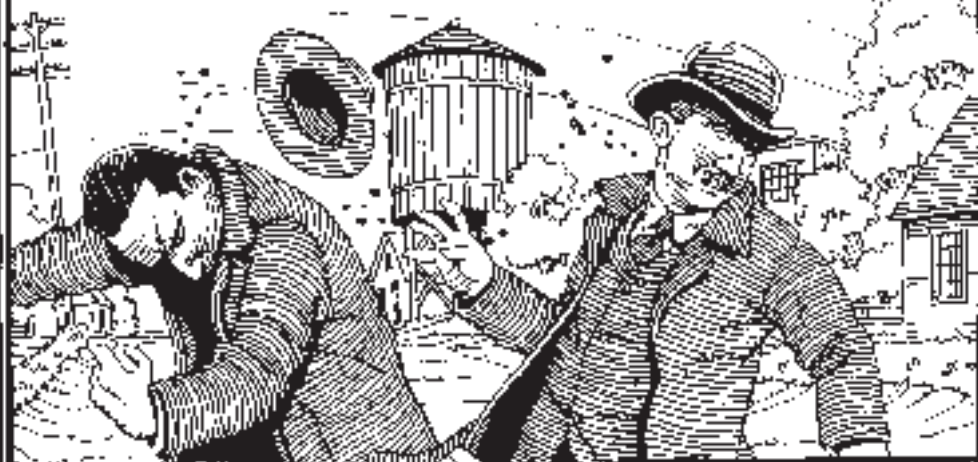


CITIZENS ON THE SIDEWALK GAZE AT THEM AS THEY PASS.

AT ABOUT 34 00PM, AS THEY HEAR THEIR DESTINATION, THEY ENCOUNTER TWO MEN BREAKING AGAINST A FENCE.



WITHOUT WARNING, THE TWO STRANGERS TELL MUSTER AND PIRE,



PARMENTER, SHOT ONCE, ATTEMPTS TO FLEE BUT IS HIT AGAIN AND COLLAPSES.



BERARDINI STRUGGLES ON THE GROUND AS ONE GUNMAN PUMPS SEVERAL MORE BULLETS INTO HIM.

ALL OF THIS TAKES PLACE IN FULL VIEW OF SEVERAL WITNESSES...



ON THE SIDEWALKS AND INSIDE THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS.

THE LABORERS ON THE EXCAVATION ACROSS THE STREET HAVE AN ESPECIALLY CLEAR VANTAGE POINT.

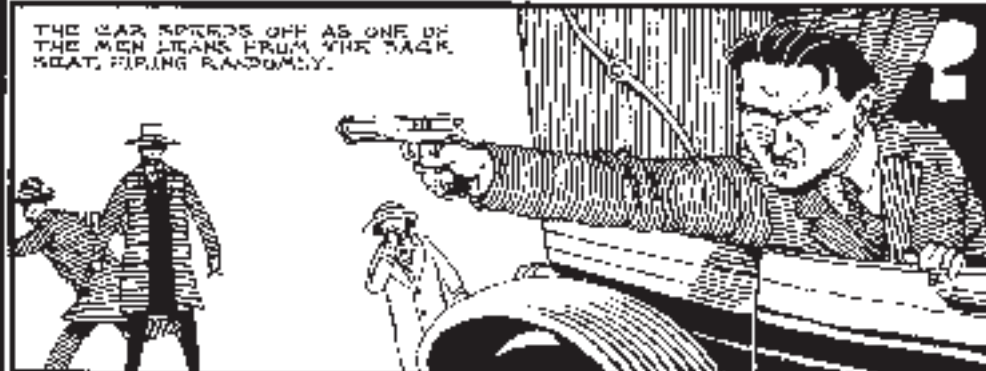


THE DARK BUICK CONTAINING TWO MORE MEN TULLS UP.



THE BANDITS HEAT THE SEAT AND CLIMB INSIDE. THEY ARE JOINED BY A FIFTH MAN WHO HAS BEEN STANDING NEARBY.

THE CAR SPEEDS OFF AS ONE OF THE MEN LEANS FROM THE BACK SEAT, FIRING RANDOMLY.



THE GETAWAY IS BRIEFLY HALTED AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING WHEN THE BAYE BLOCKS THEIR WAY.



STICK 'EM UP ON WELL PUT A HOLE THROUGH YOU!

THE TERRIFIED ATTENDANT SALERS THE BAYE.

THE BUICK RACES AWAY AND IS LAST SEEN AT ANOTHER CROSSING IN APPROXIMATELY SEVENTEEN MILES SOUTH.



WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING US UP FOR?

IT THEN DISAPPEARS WESTWARD TOWARD THE PRISON ISLAND LINE.



BACK AT THE CRIME SCENE A LARGE CROWD BATHERS, AS POLICE ATTEMPT TO ROUND UP WITNESSES AND RECONSTRUCT EVENTS.



SEMANDELLI IS DEAD AT THE SCENE, PARMENTIER TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL, DIES THE FOLLOWING DAY LEAVING A WIFE AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17
AN INQUEST IS HELD IN THE TOWN OF QUACY.



26 WITNESSES DESCRIBE THE BANDITS AND THEIR CAR, SINCE THE INCIDENT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY FEW OF THEM CAN OFFER A PRECISE RECOLLECTION.

THE CORONER, DR. GEORGE McGRATH, HAS RECOVERED SIX BULLETS, TWO FROM PARMENTIER AND FOUR FROM BERAROFF.



ALL OF THE BULLETS IN HIS OPINION WERE FIRED FROM THE SAME WEAPON.

THE CONSENSUS AMONG LAW OFFICERS IS THAT THIS CRIME WAS THE WORK OF PROFESSIONAL THIEVES.



BUT CHIEF MICHAEL STEWART OF THE BRIDGEWATER POLICE HAS OTHER IDEAS.

HE IS STILL INVESTIGATING AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY IN HIS TOWN LAST CHRISTMAS EVE.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24 1919, A PAYROLL TRUCK FOR THE L. G. WHITE BROS CO. WAS ATTACKED BY TWO ARMED MEN.



ONE OF THEM FIRED A BULLET.

THE TRUCK SWERVED INTO A TELEPHONE POLE ATTRACTING SEVERAL ONLOOKERS.



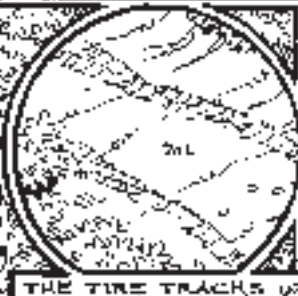
AND THE WOULD-BE ROBBERS FLED IN A HUDSON AUTOMOBILE.

STEWART BELIEVES THAT THIS ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY A GANG OF ITALIAN 'METS' AND 'BILSHIEVICKS'.



AND THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE SOUTH BRANFORD CRIME WAS THE WORK OF THE SAME GANG.

ON APRIL 17, THE NOTORIOUS DARK BUICK IS FOUND IN THE WOODS NEAR BRIDGEWATER, ITS LICENSE PLATE REMOVED.



THE TIRE TRACKS OF ANOTHER CAR ARE FOUND NEARBY.

IT IS THOROUGHLY SEARCHED AND DUSTED FOR FINGERPRINTS, BUT NOTHING USEFUL IS FOUND AND NO REPORT WILL EVER BE FILED.

BY THIS TIME, CHIEF STEWART HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE U.S. BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION THAT HE APPREHEND AN ANARCHIST NAMED FERDINANDO COACCI, WHO FAILED TO SHOW UP FOR HIS DEPARTATUUS ON APRIL 15.

COACCI LIVES IN A HOUSE IN WEST BRIDGEWATER, NOT FAR FROM WHERE THE BUICK WAS FOUND.



IT IS KNOWN LOCALLY AS "MADDER'S PLACE," A HAVEN FOR ITALIANS OF SHADY OCCUPATION.

WREN OFFICERS ARRIVE COACCI NOW SEEMS ALL TOO EAGER TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.



HE DEPARTS, IN FACT, THIS VERY EVENING.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20
STEWART HIMSELF, WITH SEVERAL MEN, COMES TO THE HOUSE.



THEY ARE GREETED BY A MAN CALLING HIMSELF MIKE BODA.

BODA SHOWS THEM IN.



A SEARCH FINDS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE CONNECTED TO THE CRIME.

A SHED OUTSIDE, USED FOR A GARAGE, IS FOUND TO BE RIMPY.

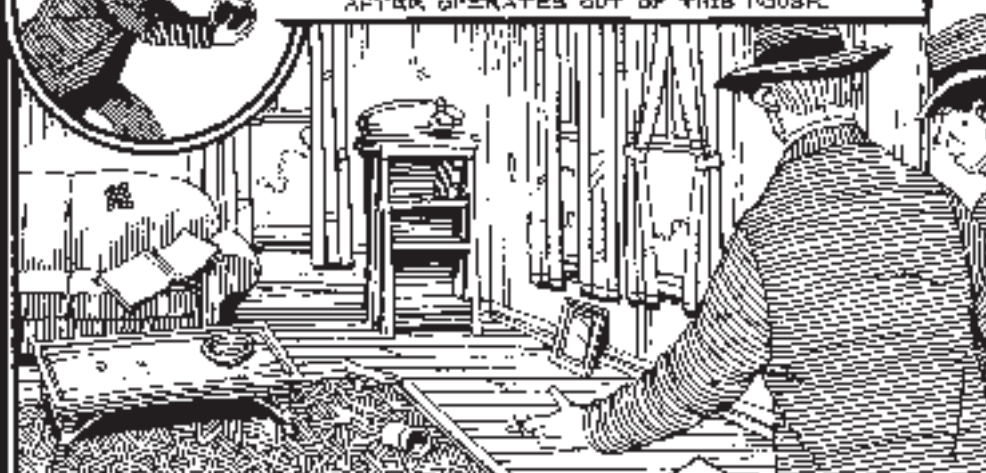


BODA SAYS THAT HIS CAR, A 1934 OVERLAND, IS IN THE SHED FOR REPAIRS.



AFTER HIS VISIT, STEWART LEARNS THAT MIKE SODA IS ACTUALLY THE ANARCHIST MAXIE SODA, WELL-KNOWN TO THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AS A SKILLED BOMB-MAKER.

THE CHIEF IS NOW CERTAIN THAT THE GANG HE IS AFTER OPERATES OUT OF THIS HOUSE.



BUT WHEN HE RETURNS TWO DAYS LATER, HE FINDS IT COMPLETELY CLEARED OUT, ITS RESIDENTS VANISHED.

STEWART LOCATES THE GARAGE, AT ELM SQUARE IN WEST BRIDGEWATER, WHERE SODA'S CAR REMAINS UNDER REPAIR.



HERE HE INSTRUCTS THE OWNER, SIMON JOHNSON, TO CALL HIM WHEN SODA COMES FOR THE CAR.



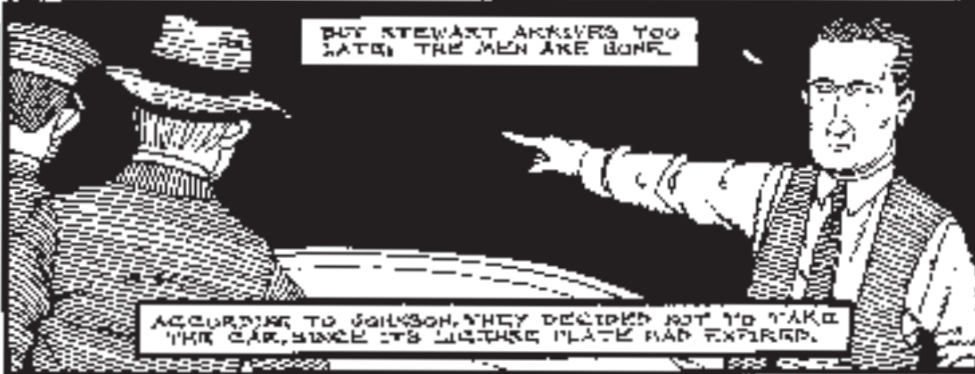
WEDNESDAY,
MAY 5
AT 2:30PM THE CALL
CAME.



FOUR MEN HAVE ARRIVED AT THE JOHNSON
HOME TO CLAIM THE OVERLAND.



BUT STEWART ANSWERS TOO
LATE; THE MEN ARE GONE.



ACCORDING TO JOHNSON, THEY DECIDED NOT TO TAKE
THE CAR, SINCE ITS LICENSE PLATE HAD EXPIRED.

BUDA AND ANOTHER MAN DEPARTED
ON A MOTORCYCLE.



THE REMAINING TWO LEFT ON FOOT.



THESE TWO UNKNOWN MEN WALK
NORTHWARD FOR ABOUT ONE MILE.



AND THEN BOARD A STREETCAR.

AT ABOUT 8:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN
OF BROOKTON, OFFICER MICHAEL
CANNON BOARDS THE CAR.



HE APPROACHES THE TWO MEN AND PLACES THEM
UNDER ARREST AS 'SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS.'



PART II

THE ACCUSED

THE PRISONERS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS:
BAR TOLOMEO VANBRETT, AGE 31, AND
NICOLA SACCO, AGE 29. BOTH ARE BRAINFULLY
EMPLOYED AND HAVE NO CRIMINAL RECORD.



WHO ARE THESE MEN? WHAT BROUGHT THEM TO THIS
PYOTAL MOMENT? A REVIEW OF THEIR LIVES THIS MOR.



BARTOLOMIO VANZETTI WAS BORN JUNE 9, 1898, IN THE VILLAGE OF VIGNALETTO IN NORTHERN ITALY.



FROM AN EARLY AGE, HE WORKED AS AN APPRENTICE SAYER AND CASHY-MAKER IN THE TOWNS OF SAVOIR AND TURIN.



AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER, HE EMIGRATED TO AMERICA, ARRIVING AT ELLIS ISLAND IN 1908.



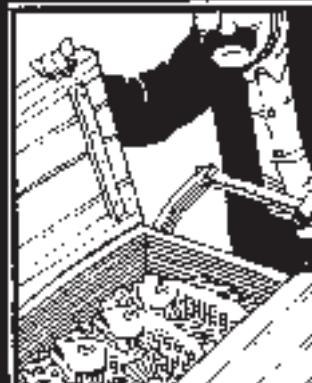
HE RENOUNCED THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND COMMITTED HIMSELF TO SOCIALISM.



VANZETTI EMPARKED UPON A LIFE OF MANUAL LABOR ON THE FARMS, STONE QUARRIES, BRICK YARDS, HIGHWAYS, AND RAILROADS OF NEW ENGLAND.



IN MASSACHUSETTS, HE WORKED AT THE PLYMOUTH CORDAGE CO., WHERE HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A 1916 STRIKE MARKED HIM AS A LABOR AGITATOR.



AT PRESENT HE SELLS FISH FROM HIS WHEEL CART ON THE STREETS OF PLYMOUTH.



KNOWN AS A GENTLE AND FORTIC SOUL, HE IS A FAMILIAR AND DELOVED PROSEKIE IN THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY.



WITHOUT A WIFE OR ANY CLOSE ATTACHMENTS, HE LIVES ALONE IN A SMALL RENTED ROOM.



NICOLA SACCO WAS BORN APRIL 22, 1891 IN THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN VILLAGE OF TORREMAGIORE.



HE HAD LITTLE FORMAL SCHOOLING BUT GREW UP WITH A LOVE OF NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS.



HIS OLDER BROTHER SASSINO WAS A CONSTANT COMPANION. TOGETHER THEY EMIGRATED TO AMERICA, LANDING IN BOSTON IN APRIL OF 1908.



AS HE WORKED AT A SERIES OF FACTORY JOBS, SACCO TURNED HIS SYMPATHIES TO THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.



HE AND HIS WIFE ROSA (WHOM HE WED IN 1912) PRESENTED PROGRAMS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR STRIKERS.



WHELER DON DANTE WAS BORN IN 1914.



AT PRESENT HE WORKS AT THE SK SHOE FACTORY IN STURMINGTON IN THE SKILLED POSITION OF EDGE-TRIMMER.



HE AND HIS FAMILY OCCUPY A SMALL HOUSE ON THE PROPERTY OF THE FACTORY'S OWNER MICHAEL KELLEY.



HERE, IN HIS SPARE HOURS, HE TENDS A LARGE FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDEN.

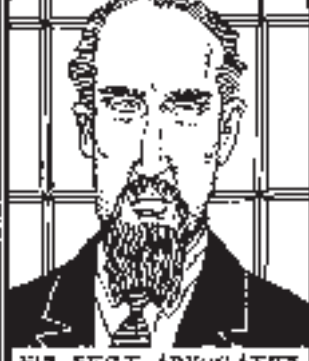
SACCO AND VANZETTI ARE KNOWN TO HAVE MET AT A BOSTON ANARCHIST CONCLAVE IN MAY OF 1917...

THE WORLD BRITES! SOCIALISM AND WAR!



SHORTLY AFTER THE UNITED STATES ENTERED THE WORLD WAR,

THEIR LEADER, LUIGI GALLIANI, IS A PROPONENT OF DIRECT ACTION.



HIS SECT ADVOCATES BOMBING AND ASSASSINATION AS TOOLS ON THE PEOPLES STRUGGLE.

DESPISE SUCH VIOLENT ELEMENTS, THE ANARCHIST PHILOSOPHY HOLDS THAT HUMANITY CAN LIVE IN FREEDOM AND HARMONY ONLY IF IS DIVESTED OF ITS OPPRESSIVE INSTITUTIONS.



IN JUNE SEVERAL OF THE GALLIANISTI EMIGRATE TO MEXICO. SACCO AND VANZETTI AND ABOUT 40 OF THEIR COMPANIES SETTLE IN THE CITY OF MONTERREY IN PREPARATION FOR A RETURN TO ITALY.



THE GROUP ALSO INCLUDES THE BOMB-BUILDERS MARIO BUDA AND CARLO VALDUGGI AND THE WRITER AND EDITOR ANDREA BALSANO.

THEIR PLAN IS TO FOMENT AN UPRISING IN THEIR NATIVE LAND AMONG THE LINGER OF THE RECENT SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA.



THEIR RESIDENCE IN MEXICO ALLOWS THEM THE FURTHER ADVANTAGE OF AVOIDING CONSCRIPTION IN THE 'REDU MAN'S WAR'

IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER A SWeltering summer in their adobe huts, the dispersed revolutionaries return to the United States.



BOTH SACCO AND VANZETTI DONATE TO AND DISTRIBUTE THE NEW YORK-BASED ANARCHIST NEWSPAPER, CRONACA SOWERSIVA, EDITED BY ANDREA SACCO.



VANZETTI ALSO CONTRIBUTES THE OCCASIONAL ARTICLE.

During this time, both men appear in the government's sights as dangerous radicals.



By the early days of 1919, with the end of the war, the Bolsheviks entrenched in Russia, and unrest growing in many countries...



Fear of worldwide revolution is rampant.

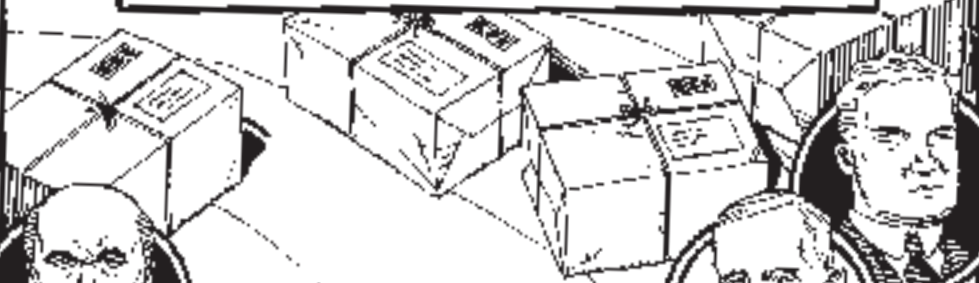
In America a full-blown red scare erupts.



The government initiates a campaign of harassment and repression.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1919

The U.S. Post Office mails a list that would have sent bombs to more than 30 people on an anarchist enemies list.



They include J. P. Morgan, Jr., John D. Rockefeller, and the U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.

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