

TUE  
7:30

The Green Hornet  
by Fran Striker

"City Hall Shake-Up"

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr;           John Anderson was elected Commissioner of Public Works with the support of the Daily Sentinel. Years later, when he ran for re-election, he found Britt Reid's influential newspaper strenuously opposed.

(DOOR OPENS)

Miss B;           Here's Britt Reid's latest blast, Mr. Anderson.

(DOOR CLOSES)

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Anderson;       Um-m. "The Daily Sentinel regrets that it can no longer endorse John Anderson. What has happened to this Commissioner? Why, during the past two years, has he forgotten his promises? Why has he been evasive? What has become of the public funds that have been spent for work that has not been done? Why has John Anderson resorted to trickery and various other devices to block investigations into the activities of his department? The candidate can allay suspicion by opening his records for inspection. Unless he does this without further delay, we can only conclude that the records would prove more damaging than mere suspicion." Um-m harsh words, eh, Miss Boswell?



Miss B; Mr. Axford of the Sentinal is waiting to see you,  
Mr. Anderson. And so is that man - Mr. Cleveborn.

Anderson; I -- I want to be alone in my office for a few  
minutes.

Miss B; Yes sir.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)

(A COUPLE OF STEPS)

Cleveborn; Well, Miss Boswell, did you tell Anderson I was here?

Miss B; Yes, Mr. Cleveborn. He'll see you in a little while.  
Will you sit down?

Cleveborn; I can't wait all day, I have other things to do!

Miss B; I'm sorry, Mr. Cleveborn.

Axford; Hey look, Miss, did yuh tell Anderson I was here  
from the Sentinal wit' some questions?

Cleveborn; You, from the Sentinal?

Axford; Yeah. Axford's the name. Michael Axford.

Cleveborn; After what your paper's been saying you've a lot of  
nerve to come here.

Axford; (CHUCKLES) I never been bothered none by lack o'  
nerve.

(DOOR OPENS QUICKLY)

Peggy; (BACK) Miss Boswell --

(DOOR CLOSES, STEPS IN AS:)

(COMING IN) I must see my father right away.



Miss B; Will you sit down for just a few moments, Miss Anderson?

Peggy; Mother is waiting in the car --

Miss B; I'll tell your father you're here.

Peggy; I'll tell him myself.

Miss B; But Miss Anderson - - -

Peggy; (FADING BACK) I'll only take a couple of seconds -

(DOOR OPENS AS:)

Cleveborn; I'm going in there, too! I'm tired of wait-

Peggy; (BACK, CRY OUT) Daddy! (SCREAM) Don't!!

Axford; What the --

Cleveborn; (CRY OUT) He's jumped!

Miss B; (CRY OUT) What happened?

Peggy; (PANIC, HYSTERIA) He jumped. He jumped! I saw him jump!!

Axford; (AD LIB) Sufferin' Snakes!!!

Peggy; (SOBBING) He jumped from the office window!

MUSIC: PING

Case; (FADING IN) And you were right there in the office at the time, Axford?

Axford; That I was, Casey. By golly, it was awful. His own daughter was there.

Case; You called in the story, didn't you?



Axford; That I did, but there's a couple o' angles that I didn't say nothin' about when I talked tuh rewrite. That's why I gotta see Reid.

(DOOR OPENS)

Case; Hello, Mr. Reid.

(DOOR CLOSES AS:)

Britt; (COMING IN) Hello, Miss Case.

Axford; Reid, I ---

Britt; You head a beat on the Anderson death, didn't you, Axford?

Axford; Yeah. An' Reid, I want tuh tell yez ---

Britt; Not now, Axford. Not unless it's important.

Axford; But it is! Listen, when I was in Anderson's outer office there was a guy there waitin' tuh see him --- a guy by the name o' Cleveborn -

Britt; Who's Cleveborn?

Axford; I know about him because o' my connections wit' the cops. Reid, he's a blacklisted newspaper man. He used tuh handle a lot o' city hall stuff, 'till it got out that he was bein' bribed tuh keep some things out o' the papers. He's no good!!

Britt; Why was he calling on Anderson?

Axford; That's what I don't know, Reid. An' neither does Anderson's secretary, a girl by the name o' Boswell -

Britt; Do you think Cleveborn is doing a little blackmail ---



- Axford; By golly, I wouldn't be surprised! He don't have no visible means o' support, but he's all the time got plenty o' cash tuh spend.
- Britt; Um-hum.
- Axford; He still hangs out around the city hall.
- Britt; I wonder if he had anything on Anderson?
- Case; If he did, it might supply the motive for the suicide.
- Axford; Anderson used tuh be a pretty straight guy.
- Britt; Yes, I know he was. The Sentinal backed him when he first ran for office. I was surprised at the way he turned out. There was an awful lot of money spent in his department - the amount of Public Works didn't justify the expenditures --
- Case; Mr. Reid --
- Britt; Yes, Miss Case?
- Case; I happen to know Mrs. Anderson and Peggy - they don't live high -
- Britt; Eh?
- Case; I mean - well, if Anderson has been getting rich in his job, it's not apparent in the way his wife and daughter live.
- Britt; I see. ( ) I wonder why Cleveborn was calling on Anderson.
- Axford; I tried tuh find out, Reid. I talked tuh Miss Boswell..
- Britt; The secretary?



- Axford; Yeah. She said that Cleveborn was in there tuh see Anderson every so often - an' every time he was there, Anderson was upset, kind of, after he'd left.
- Britt; Anderson was upset?
- Axford; Yeah. Nervous an' sort of jittery, an' short-tempered.
- Britt; What else did you learn about Cleveborn?
- Axford; Well, not much, Reid..
- Britt; You said he hung around the city hall.
- Axford; Durin' the day. An' nights it's Gorham's Grove...
- Britt; Gorham's Grove...
- Axford; It's a sort o' roadhouse outside o' the city limits. There's gamblin' there.
- Britt; I wonder how I missed Gorham's Grove.
- Axford; Oh it's not like the other roadhouses an' night clubs, Reid. It's third-rate. It's not your kind o' place. Besides you couldn't get in.
- Britt; Who couldn't get in?
- Case; You shouldn't have said that, Michael.
- Axford; You gotta be known tuh Gorham tuh git in.
- Britt; I can't get in, eh?
- Axford; Now Reid ---
- Britt; We'll see about that!
- Axford; But Reid, yuh wouldn't like it! There's no floor show an' the food's no good ---



Britt; I'll find out for myself, Axford. How would you like to go with me? I'll have Kato drive us out there tonight.

MUSIC: BURST

(B.G. OF NIGHT CLUB)

Axford; Y'see, Reid, this place o' Gorham's isn't so hot.

Britt; I admit I've seen better.

Axford; This night club part is only a front tuh hide the gamblin' upstairs--

Britt; And even the gambling is second rate. ( ) Have you seen Cleveborn around, Axford?

Axford; No. But Gorham is the dark-haired little squirt over there wit' the flower in his button hold.

Britt; Um.

Axford; The guy the waiter just went up tuh speak to --

Britt; I see him.

(B.G. UP & UNDER)

Voice; He wants you to meet him in back, Mr. Gorham. He's sitting in your car.

Gorham; What's the matter with Cleveborn? Is he getting bashful? Why doesn't he come in here?

Voice; I don't know, Boss. I just brought the message as he gave it to me.

Gorham; O.K. Freddie. I'll go see what's eating him.



Voice; Say Boss —

Gorham; Well?

Voice; Is that Britt Reid over there?

Gorham; Yeah. Why?

Voice; I gotta tell him his paper is callin' on the phone.

Gorham; Oh.

(B.G. UP & UNDER)

Britt; The phone?

Voice; Yes, Mr. Reid. Your office is calling.

Axford; Golly Reid, maybe it's important.

Britt; If it is, I'll let you know Axford. Excuse me.

Axford; Sure thing.

(FADE OUT B.G.)

Voice; Right in that booth, Mr. Reid. You can close the door.

Britt; Thanks.

(PHONE BOOTH DOOR)

(CUE) Hello?

Kato; (PHONE) Mr. Britt - it is not office calling.

Britt; (LOW, INTO PHONE) Hello. Kato, where are you calling from?

Kato; (PHONE) From booth in vestibule of club.



Britt; Did you watch for Cleveborn?

(PHONE)  
Kato; /Yes sir. I see him enter Gorham's car. He sent word for Mr. Gorham to meet him.

Britt; Gorham just left the dining room.

Kato; (PHONE) Yes sir. Is meeting Cleveborn in rear of building.

Britt; Is it dark out there?

Kato; (PHONE) Is very dark.

Britt; Good. I'll slip around to the rear and see if I can learn anything. And Kato -- don't lose Cleveborn ...

MUSIC: SHORT, TENSION INTERLUDE

(NIGHT NOISES)

Cleveborn; I thought it might be better if I wasn't seen inside the place for a while Gorham.

Gorham; All right, Cleveborn. Why'd you want to see me? What's up?

Cleveborn; Anderson's death has started an investigation.

Gorham; Naturally. How about Anderson's records?

Cleveborn; The big boy says he can stall the inspection of the records for a little while, but not for long. The shortage will be found and it might be traced to us.

Gorham; Confound Anderson! Why'd he have to take the dive? He had the election cinched.

Cleveborn; Maybe he didn't think so.



Gorham; We'd have cleaned up plenty on him.

Cleveborn; He had cold feet from the start. I was always afraid he was too honest for us.

Gorham; What about this inspection?

Cleveborn; We've got to make up the shortage.

Gorham; How?

Cleveborn; That's why I came here, Gorham. We gotta see Anderson's wife.

Gorham; She's got nothing.

Cleveborn; She will have when the insurance is paid.

Gorham; Will it be paid, in view of the suicide?

Cleveborn; It'll be paid. I checked on that.

Gorham; What good'll it do to see the widow? How do we know she'll pay up?

Cleveborn; She'd pay a lot to save her husband's good name. Y'see, Anderson left a letter for her. It was on his desk. I grabbed it during the excitement.

Gorham; A letter, eh? What's in it?

Cleveborn; Plenty. Among other things it names me!

Gorham; Um-m. Lucky you were there when Anderson jumped.

Cleveborn; Lucky and unlucky. Because I was there, the police want to question me about my connection with Anderson. I've got to lie low.

Gorham; What am I to do?



Cleveborh; When the insurance is paid, you've got to call on Mrs. Anderson. You get the cash from her and turn it over to me. I'll see that Merkle gets it back into Anderson's accounts. Then everything'll be all right. (FADING OUT) Now here's what you're to tell the widow - - -

## MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Anncr; Hidden in the shadows, Britt Reid heard much of the low-voiced conversation before he rejoined Axford in the dining room. It was later the same evening when he met Kato in the bedroom of his luxurious apartment..

Britt; Kato, our city is in the grip of a well-oiled bunch of crooks! Men in high positions have to take orders from Cleveborn and Gorham. Anderson wasn't the only one!

Kato; There are others?

Britt; Yes. Merkle, who like Anderson is on the council, and Hudson who's in the prosecutor's office --

Kato; Is true?

Britt; Yes. A lot of cash has been channeled into the hands of the crooks.

Kato; Cleveborn and Gorham are crooks?

Britt; We're on the track of something, Kato. It may take the Green Hornet to get the evidence that's needed.

Kato; How can I help, Mr. Britt?

Britt; You followed Cleveborn after he left Gorham's Grove, didn't you?



Kato; Yes sir. He went to small hotel and took suite in assumed name of Smith.

Britt; Keep an eye on him! Watch him all the time and keep me posted!

Kato; Yes sir.

Britt; If we get the breaks, we'll learn how men like Anderson and Merkle and Hudson are corrupted after they get in office!

Kato; How long you think it will take?

Britt; We'll have to wait, Kato, until the insurance company settles with Mrs. Anderson. Then I think things will pop wide open!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annrc; We'll continue our story in just a moment - - -

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc; For several days following the suicide of John Anderson, Axford kept in close touch with police headquarters, and kept needling his friend Sergeant Burke ---

Axford; I tell yez, Burke, the cops are slippin'.

Burke; Oh is that so now, Axford?

Axford; Believe me, when I was on the cops, a lug like Cleveborn couldn't disappear an' stay so. We'd o' found him in no time.



Burke; Well if you can find him, there's nothin' stoppin' you! Go on, Axford, an' find the lug! There's things he could tell about John Anderson! Find him an' get yerself a story fer the Sentinel! An' if you're so good at findin' men, you might bring in that Green Hornet!

Axford; You'll be eatin' that sarcasm one o' these days, Burke. You wait an' see! I'll find the Green Hornet!

Burke; Ma! You will in a pig's eye! If you could get the Hornet, you could get Cleveborn!

Axford; Slap a twenty-five grand reward on Cleveborn like's on the Hornet, an' watch me find him!

MUSIC: BURST

(TYPING, DOOR OPENS)

(TYPING STOPS)

Case; ! Oh, hello, Michael.

(DOOR CLOSES)

(CUE) Why what's the matter with you?

Axford; (SIGHS) Casey, it's tired I am. I been lookin' all over fer Cleveborn -

Case; Are you still looking for him?

Axford; I'd give a week's pay tuh git him - just tuh show that smart aleck Burke a thing or two.

Case; Oh. Burke's in your hair - uh - well, a figure of speech

Axford; Is Reid in his office?



Case; No, Michael, not now, but he called. He said to hold you if you came in.

Axford; Hold me?

Case; He wants to see you.

Axford; Oh golly, Casey, have I done somethin' wrong?

Case; (LAUGHS) Not that I know of. I think he has a special story. He seemed quite enthused.

(DOOR OPENS)

Axford; Here he is. Hey, Reid - -

Britt; (BACK) Hello, Axford.

(DOOR CLOSES)

(COMING IN) Glad you're here. I have an inside tip. You've wondered where Kato was spending his time - - -

Axford; Yeah -

Britt; Well, he got what he was waiting for. He learned that the insurance company is to pay Mrs. Anderson this afternoon.

Axford; Is that what Kato's been doin'?

Britt; Um.

Case; Did you have him planted somewhere?

Britt; That's about it, Axford. If you hop over to see Mrs. Anderson, you might get a story - what she'll do with the insurance, etc. - - -

Axford; Aw now, Reid, I - I don't like that sort o' job . . .



Britt; It'll be a scoop. Won't it, Miss Case?

Case; It'll be bad taste, Mr. Reid, if you'll pardon my saying so.

Britt; Bad taste?

Case; I'm sure Gunnigan wouldn't care for a story like that -- neither would your father.

Axford; Neither would I, by golly.

Britt; But I -- I went to a lot of trouble to get the tip-off on the check --

Case; Mrs. Anderson's had so much heartache, Mr. Reid.

Britt; Well --

Case; The Sentinel doesn't need news that badly.

Britt; O.K. If that's how you feel, we'll skip it.

Axford; Reid, you don't have the slant o' what makes news. Now if you'd only spend more time around the office so's you could learn --

Britt; Or less time, so I wouldn't interfere with routine. Well, I'll clear out for the rest of the day. I can be reached at the golf course --

## MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annccr; That evening, while Axford was at Police headquarters, as usual -- Britt Reid called Kato to his bedroom --

Britt; Cleveborn is still at the hotel, Eh Kato?

Kato; Yes, Mr. Britt. Hiding behind name of Smith.



**Britt;** Tonight Gorham's to call on Mrs. Anderson. We'll get there early and watch for him. Is everything ready?

**Kato;** All is ready.

MUSIC: TENSION)

**Anncr;** Stepping thru a secret panel in the rear of a closet in the bedroom, Britt Reid and Kato went along a narrow passageway built within the walls of the apartment itself. This passage led to an adjoining building, which fronted on a dark side street. Though supposedly abandoned, this building served as the hiding place for the sleek, super-powered Black Beauty, streamlined car of the Green Hornet!

(STEPS INTO CAR - CAR STARTING, BACK)

Britt Reid pressed a button. The great car roared into life. A section of the wall in front raised automatically, then closed as the gleaming Black Beauty speed into the darkness!

MUSIC: UP TO FINISH

**Anncr;** The Black Beauty was parked in the shadows near the Anderson home. Britt waited until he saw Gorham enter the house. He gave the owner of the gambling casino time to get well into his interview with Mrs. Anderson --

**Gorham;** This is a most unpleasant task, Mrs. Anderson.

**Mrs. A;** I - I can't believe it, Mr. Gorham.. and yet, I - I knew there must be some reason for John's - John's act.



- Gorham; I was as shocked as you are. I had always trusted Cleveborn. We were friends. To think that he was a blackmailer, -- but we must face the facts and do the best we can. We must work this out together.
- Mrs. A; I - I suppose that's the only way.
- Gorham; You see, Cleveborn was with your husband at my club, when it was raided. He had a photograph that proved that John escaped during the raid. Cleveborn kept demanding money as the price of his silence - - -
- Mrs. A; John explained all that in the letter you brought me -
- Gorham; Oh yes.
- Mrs. A; Why did Cleveborn steal the letter from John's desk?
- Gorham; He probably thought it would be a confession that would involve him -- and it was!
- Mrs. A; But he sent the letter to you, why not to me?
- Gorham; He thought I'd make a good intermediary. He knew he could trust me. Mrs. Anderson, we must replace the the cash your husband stole. It must be returned before the audit is made..
- Mrs. A; I - I see.
- Gorham; It's the only way to protect John Anderson's name.
- Mrs. A; And, incidentally, to protect your friend, Mr. Cleveborn.
- Gorham; Yes.



Mrs. A; But how can the cash be returned with no one knowing -??

Gorham; I can handle that. I have a contact -

Mrs. A; How do I know you'll return it?

Gorham; Mrs. Anderson, if I didn't do so, Cleveborn would get me. You can see what he says in the letter to me - -

Britt; (BACK) I'll take that letter.

Gorham; (GASP) What the - - -

Mrs. A; Masked!!

Gorham; The Green Hornet!

Britt; (COMING IN ) Breeze, Gorham!

Mrs. A; What do you want?

Britt; Lots of bad company tonight, eh, Mrs. Anderson?  
I'll take the letter your husband wrote to you as well as the one Cleveborn sent Gorham! (EFFORT)  
That's it!

Mrs. A; No! No!

Gorham; Wait! Listen - -

Britt; (FADING) Another time, Gorham! We'll meet again!

(DOOR SLAMS)

Mrs. A; Oh that mask! The Hornet - what shall I do? What shall I do?

Gorham; (RUNNING) I'm going after that Hornet!

(JERK DOOR OPEN)

(STREET NOISES)



Gorham; (CUE) I'll get you!

(TWO SHOTS)

(HORNET CAR STARTS FAST)

MUSIC: BURST, FADE UNDER

Burke; (ON RADIO) ... and the Hornet was last seen in the home of Mrs. John Anderson on Parker Avenue. All cars be on the alert for Green Hornet! Get him dead or alive!

MUSIC: BURST AND UNDER

Radio; ...And here's a special flash! Your commentator has just received word that the Green Hornet is again at

<p>Annex: Among those who heard the radio newscast, was Cleveborn, alone in the hotel suite he had rented in an assumed name --</p>	<p>large. He appeared at the home of Mrs. John Anderson a few minutes ago. Mrs. Anderson notified police but refused to describe the nature of the robbery -- --</p>
---	--

Radio; Now back to the baseball scores -- (CUT WITH:)

(SWITCH)

Cleveborn; (TO HIMSELF) What in blazes is the Hornet doing at Anderson's house? I wonder if Gorham was there --

Britt; (BACK) Hello, Cleveborn!

Cleveborn; (GASP) What the -- th-the Hornet!!

Britt; Yes.



Cleveborn; H-how did you get here?

Britt; The window of the next room opens to a fire escape.  
You left the connecting door unlocked - -

Cleveborn; Now see here -

Britt; I thought you'd bring all of your confidential  
matters into hiding with you. Let's see what  
you have in that desk - -

Cleveborn; No no! Wait! Listen, Hornet!

Britt; Shut up, rat! ~~Don't~~ Do I get what I want in this  
desk or do I have to search further?

(OPEN DRAWER)

Cleveborn; Now listen, I've got nothing there! I t-

Britt; Nothing? What's this?

Cleveborn; (EFFORT) Give me that!

Britt; (EFFORT) Get back!

(STAGGERING STEPS)

And if you try another fast move, I'll let you have  
the stuff that's in this gun!

(RUSTLES PAPERS)

Cleveborn; Y-you --

Britt; Interesting documents here - also photographs - well --  
Here's Merkle - and of all people, Hudson! I can use  
these things! Good game, wasn't it, Cleveborn?

Cleveborn; No no!



Britt; I think you lie!

(RAP ON DOOR)

Cleveborn; (GASP)

Britt; (LOW, MENACE) Watch it, Cleveborn. Ask who's there.

Cleveborn; Who -- who's there?

Gorham; (BEYOND DOOR) Open up!

Britt; Gorham, eh? That's all I wanted to know! Tell him to come in.

Cleveborn; (CALL) Come in.

(DOOR OPENS)

Britt; Now I don't need you, Cleveborn!

Cleveborn; (GASPS) No no! Not that ...

Gorham; Hey-- what the ---

Britt; Come on, Gorham!

(DOOR SLAMS)

There's more gas for you if you don't behave!

Gorham; Wha -- what've you done --

(FALLING BODY)

Britt; Sit down and shut up! I'm going to call Merkle and Hudson! They'd better get here on the double!

MUSIC: BURST, FADE UNDER

Britt; Yes. Right away, Merkle! You'll see Cleveborn when you get here!



(SLAM PHONE)

Britt; Stay where you are, Gorham! I'm calling Hudson!

MUSIC: BURST TO FINISH

(DOOR OPENS)

Britt; Come in, Hudson, Merkle is already here!

Hudson; (GASP) That mask --

Britt; The word is: Hornet!

(DOOR CLOSES)

Hudson; Merkle - wha .. what's this mean?

Merkle; I - I don't know, Hudson. I just got here a minute ago.

Hudson; You, Gorham --

Gorham; He captured me too!

Britt; Cleveborn is over there, gentlemen, on the floor!

Merkle; Good Lord!

Hudson; Merkle! Is -- is he dead?

Merkle; I - I don't know. I just got here a minute ahead of you - I --

Gorham; The Hornet shot him!

Britt; Cleveborn won't do any more blackmailing, gentlemen! I am not the one who holds the evidence against you! Here, Merkle, a photograph of you - both print and negative -

Merkle; Give that to me!