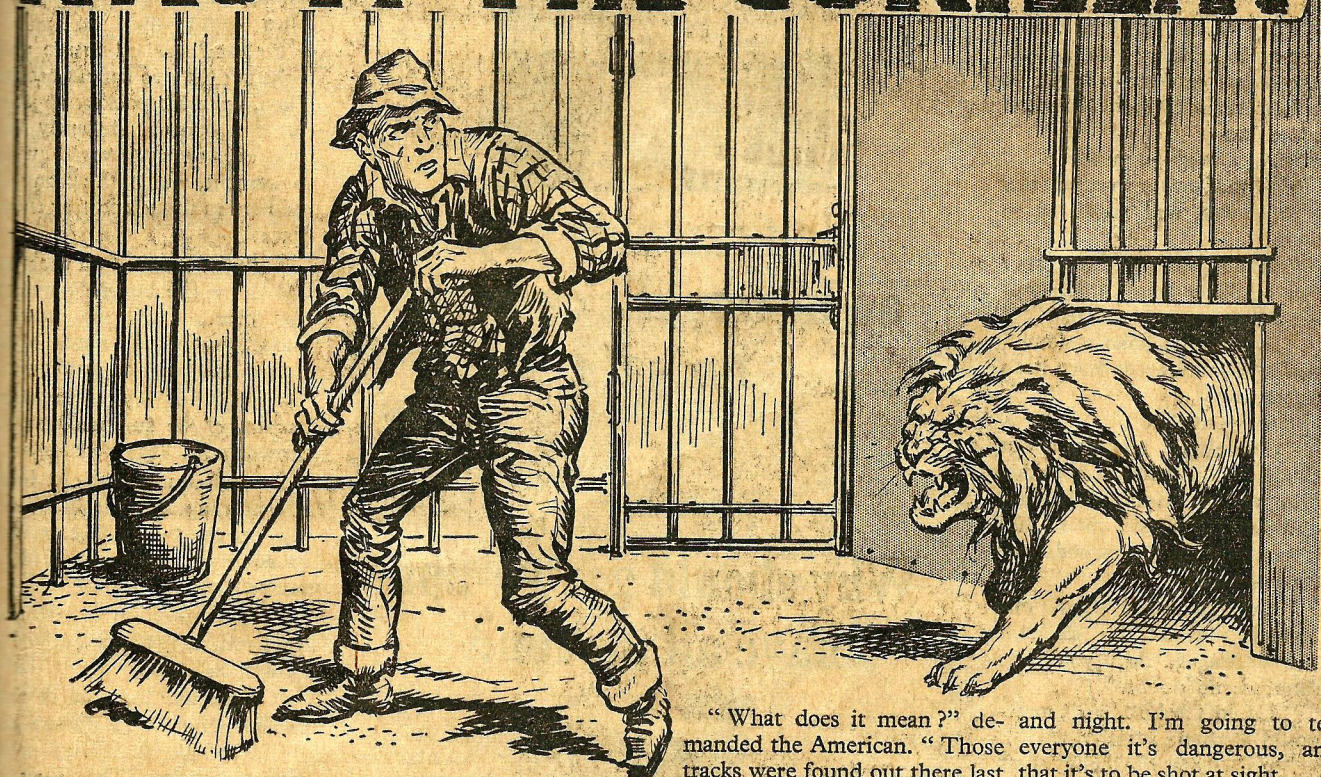


Terhune had entered the Red Star Circus as an animal helper, but on his first time in the cage, someone let the lions loose!

WAS IT THE GORILLA?



FOR sheer fantasy and horror, Paul Terhune had never encountered a case like this of the "Twisted Neck" Murders.

He was now being made to believe that a gorilla with a human brain had committed a series of terrible crimes to avenge the real owner of the brain!

"Phew!" Terhune paced the room which had been put at his disposal. Outside he could hear Staunton directing his experts to make plaster casts of the footprints found overnight.

The final inspection of the plaster casts had been made. There were fourteen of them, collected along the line of departure of the overnight attacker.

The detectives had arranged them in the order in which they had been found, although they could not space them at the right intervals, some of these being too long.

Paul Terhune walked along slowly, bending to look at each. Presently he began to frown.

"These are all the casts of tracks made by the hind feet of an ape?"

"Yes, sir," said the young expert in charge. "That was all we found."

"Are you sure? You didn't find any depressions between these, as would be made by a bunch of knuckles pressed to the ground? Are you sure you looked carefully?"

"There was nothing like that, only these distinct footprints," the man assured him.

Terhune abruptly turned his back on the line of casts.

"Then it wasn't a gorilla that made these tracks! A gorilla can walk slowly entirely upright, without touching hands to ground, but when it moves in a hurry, as the attacker certainly would have done last night, it always helps itself along with its long arms.

"It touches the knuckles of its hands to the ground with almost as much force as it uses with its feet."

He walked away with Dick Staunton panting up behind him.

"What does it mean?" demanded the American. "Those tracks were found out there last night after the assailant had got away."

"Then they were made by a man who wanted to be mistaken for a gorilla. He must have had some gorilla-shaped contraptions on his feet."

"Phew! So we haven't got to look for Chako after all, but for a human murderer?"

"We've got to look for Chako more than ever, Staunton. I've made the most terrible discovery about that gorilla—"

There and then he told Staunton the horror he had learned from the old night-porter concluding—

"That's the secret something or someone has been trying to keep from us ever since the first murder."

Staunton rose swiftly. "I'm going to send out a call through three States for that gorilla to be hunted day

and night. I'm going to tell everyone it's dangerous, and that it's to be shot at sight.

"We'll finish this night-marish business with all possible speed. When the brains of executed murderers live on after them, and scheme vengeance on those who administered the law— Ugh!"

Terhune shrugged his supple shoulders!

"I don't think you'll find Chako. When you've finished sending out those orders, would you come with me to interview Utley once more at the Red Star Circus? Where did you say the circus had moved to?"

"Harrisburg! Some of my men have gone with it to keep an eye on things."

"Then we'll head for Harrisburg as soon as you're through with your routine stuff."

The Starved Apes

HARRISBURG was a bigger place than Spring City, and the fair-ground was more towards the centre of the city.

They picked out the menagerie tent at once, and as they drew to a halt at the rear of it, they saw the man they wanted emerging with an enormous truss of hay impaled on the end of a pronged fork.

Although not over tall, he was immensely broad and deep

FOR NEW READERS.

Paul Terhune, the famous English private detective, was helping Lieutenant Dick Staunton of the police of Spring City, Pennsylvania, to investigate the broken-neck murders case.

Seven years before, Brogan Carr, a murderer, had threatened to come back from the grave and kill everyone connected with his trial. Now officials and members of the jury were being murdered.

Each man had had his neck broken, and the chief suspect was a gorilla, Chako, which had escaped from the Red Star Circus. Ellis Utley, its keeper, maintained the gorilla was harmless.

Professor Reinland, a noted scientist, had also been murdered in a nearby town. Terhune discovered that immediately after Carr's execution, Reinland had transferred the dead murderer's brain to Chako.