

The Separator Room

THE CASE FILE

Ansel Doerfler had sold the creamery over the hands' heads. He was found in the separator room at 1:40, after the last print. The examiner returns one mark and ranks nothing: the room reads it three ways, one to a stand - wrap bench, scald line, churn floor. A churn gasket lay off its ring; Kaltenbach and Waldvogel left theirs so; Stroebel and Prahl too, as no hand unships one before the wash.

Nine print boxes, three to a stand. Cure cell 0, cell 1 and cell 2 hold three boxes and a brine tub apiece: twelve rows in the round book, three to a hand. Wrap 1-3: Kaltenbach, Kaltenbach, Stroebel; scald 4-6: Stroebel, Waldvogel, Kaltenbach; churn 7-9: Waldvogel, Waldvogel, Prahl. Cell 1: 2, 6, 7; cell 2: 1, 4, 8; cell 0: 3, 5, 9. Tubs: 1 Stroebel, 2 Prahl, 0 Prahl. Sum Evidence 2 in A1Z26 over three: the remainder is the cell.

THE VICTIM	FOUND AT	TIME	APPARENT CAUSE
Ansel Doerfler	The separator room of the Bellwood	1:40, after	Undetermined

THE SUSPECTS

1

EMMETT KALTENBACH

Print hand, cream side

Motive: The trust kept one print hand on, and Doerfler had shown him the list.

Alibi: "I was carrying cans to the wash floor." The wash tally has his name at 1:05 and again at 2:10. It puts him in the building, not at any one stand.

2

OTTO STROEBEL

Print hand, salt side

Motive: Doerfler had docked him twice for short weight and the second slip was still open.

Alibi: "I went out to the yard for salt." The yard scale ticket carries his name at 1:20. It accounts for one trip, not for the round.

3

JULIUS WALDVOGEL

Print hand, wash side

Motive: His spring bid for the creamery lost to the trust's price.

Alibi: "I was walking the cellar rounds." The cellar sheet holds his name at 1:15 and 1:50; two moments, not the span between.

4

HARLAN PRAHL

Print hand, yard side

Motive: Doerfler had held back his winter pay against a can he never broke.

Alibi: "I was at the platform taking in cream." The intake book shows his name against the 1:30 load. It covers a quarter hour, not the rest.

B	B	U	K	C	O	C	M	A	E	T	S	P	W
E	C	R	T	N	T	H	R	E	C	S	B	K	E
F	H	X	I	U	O	E	A	A	A	L	W	Z	I
I	U	S	H	N	N	I	S	N	U	C	G	O	G
N	R	W	K	N	E	E	T	N	G	N	W	N	H
K	N	R	E	I	I	W	T	A	I	I	I	U	C
D	D	T	R	N	M	T	E	N	V	D	N	H	A
R	O	M	T	E	R	P	O	L	L	R	O	G	N
U	G	Y	Z	A	H	S	I	A	L	K	A	G	M
C	T	W	U	P	I	S	C	P	I	L	Z	T	H
H	S	M	N	O	J	S	A	N	E	J	T	B	S
J	A	X	P	D	Y	X	G	D	G	E	F	K	M
D	E	N	O	T	S	K	L	I	M	V	V	U	O
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	C	U	T	I	O	N	Y

EVIDENCE 2 - THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. RENNET | 2. SKIMPIPE | 3. CURDKNIFE | 4. BRINEWELL |
| 5. CHURND OG | 6. MILKSTONE | 7. DASHER | 8. WEIGHCAN |
| 9. STEAMCOCK | 10. CASEIN | | |

YOUR LETTERS**THE HIDDEN WORD**

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EVIDENCE 1 - THE MISSING WORD

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| ☐ CHOKING | ☐ POISONING | ☐ STARVATION | ☐ SUFFOCATION |
| ☐ ELECTROCUTION | ☐ BLUNT TRAUMA | ☐ SCALDING | ☐ HANGING |

EVIDENCE 1 - METHOD**EVIDENCE 2 - KEY MEANS****VERDICT - CULPRIT**