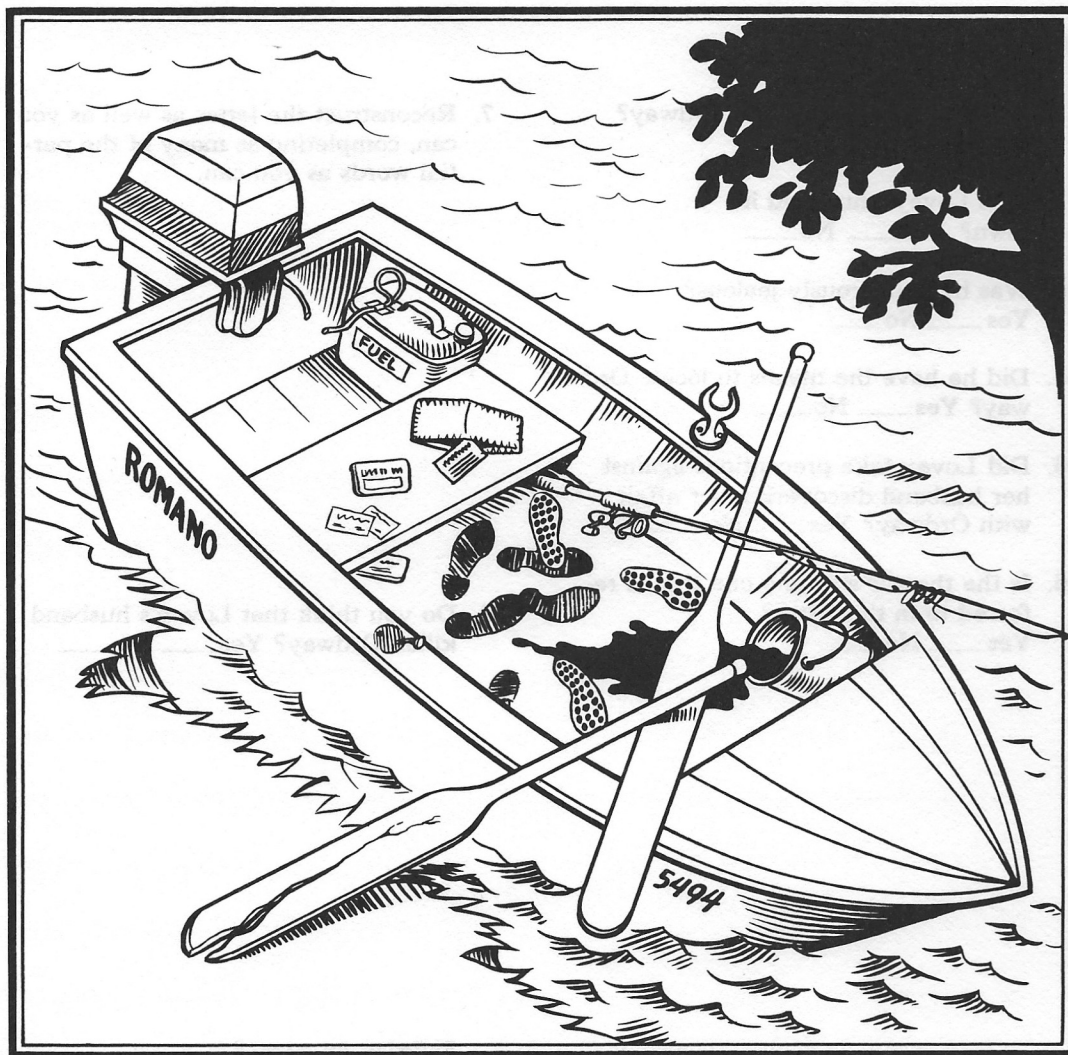


END OF A VILLAIN



Romano Rubitch was undoubtedly the most hated man in Endicott County, and his life was often threatened, even by children. Consequently, when his boat was found drifting in Dead Man's Cove without him, there was the equivalent of dancing in the streets. The widows and orphans whose life savings he'd invested and lost, the friends he'd double-crossed, the tradesmen he'd cheated, and the women he'd dishonored were of one mind: good riddance to bad Rubitch. And whether he'd drowned accidentally or been knocked off by a public benefactor, or had finally repaid his debt to the community by committing suicide was immaterial to most people. But the sheriff of Endicott County had a sworn duty to investigate, and he carried it out capably.

All he knew was that Rubitch had left his house on the morning of May 17 and had not returned for dinner, and that the next day his boat had been found exactly as you see it. If you were the sheriff, what conclusions would you draw?

Questions

1. Do you think Rubitch had been fishing? Yes____ No____
2. Is there evidence of a fight? Yes____ No____
3. Do you think Rubitch committed suicide? Yes____ No____
4. Is this a tippy boat? Yes____ No____
5. Do you think Rubitch fell overboard accidentally and drowned? Yes____ No____
6. Do you think the gas line was deliberately cut? Yes____ No____
7. Is the presence of the paint can unusual? Yes____ No____
8. Do you think that evidence of a fight was planted? Yes____ No____
9. How many people can you prove to have been in the boat? One____ Two____ Three____ More than three____
10. What do you think happened?

Solution on page 52