

HYGIENISTS IN PRINT-SPRING INTO DENTAL-FICTION & NONFICTION—Lois Foster Hirt May 2010

IRON TIES Ann Parker

Inez Stannert along with her husband who split, is a partner in the Silver Queen Saloon taking place in Leadville, Colorado, in the 1860's. Her young son is sick & is back east with her family. Ulysses S. Grant is going to be coming through Leadville, & it seems like some people haven't been able to let go of their ties & feeling about the Civil War. There're others who might not want the railroad to come through.

DIG INTO DENTAL with 1. Nevertheless, the gentleman smiled widely, exposing teeth of nearly preternatural whiteness, broken only by a large gap between his two front teeth and a diamond winking from an upper incisor." [[Parker says "The diamond-in-the-tooth thing is something I "picked up" from a newspaper article from that time. Anyhow, to diamonds in the teeth... It was one (flamboyant) way people showed they could afford them. As for the timeframe, alas, I can't find the reference that is tickling the back of my brain (I thought it was a showman, or a gambler, something like that). The closest I came was a reference to "Diamond-Tooth Lil." Only problem is, she was part of the Alaska Gold Rush... a little late for my time frame (see <http://www.yukon-news.com/opinions/columns/12736/> Sooo it may be you've caught me in a dental anachronism! I'll keep looking, but at this point have to admit I can't find any earlier references than the 1890s. Maybe Mr. Fairplay was just "ahead of his time." ;-))] 2. "Deep down, Inez experienced a little tweak of satisfaction that Mrs. Fairplay's teeth were not perfect specimens like her husband's. However, the green of her eyes-reminding Inez of the startling green of absinthe-served to draw attention from the fact that her teeth were a tad yellow and incisors crooked." 3. "He looked up at Inez, beaming as if their business was a done deal—all perfect teeth, perfect hair, perfect suit."

D.I.Y. DENTISTRY And Other Alarming Inventions—Andy Riley

The cover shows a man tied to a tree with his mouth opened. A string is attached to 1 of his teeth. The other end is around the body of a dog. Other D.I. Y. Dentistry cartoon show a man doing a check up, drilling, extraction method # 1 in reference to the cover's picture, extraction method #2, & replacement.

MURDER OF A ROYAL PAIN- Denise Swanson

Denise thanks me in the acknowledgements for "encouraging her to use a dentist office scene for years." You have to love 1 dental office scene, & it has nothing to do with "drilling" of teeth.

Protagonist Skye Denison is a school psychologist in fictional Scumble River, IL. High school principal Homer Knapik has made her the faculty liaison to the Promfest committee. Annette Paine, whose husband is Dr. Dylan Paine, DDS, & Evie Harrison are 2 obnoxious women who think they were each chairperson. Evie hopes it will help her daughter be prom queen. Skye wishes for extra help at school & gets overly enthusiastic social worker Jackie Jennings

Annette & Skye are the 2 volunteers given nearly identical witch costumes for the haunted house at Promfest. When Annette is found dead there, Skye wonders if it really was an accident & maybe someone was after her, especially when it is decided it was a homicide. Skye even suspects Dr. Paine because he is not Dr. Innocent.

DENTAL DALIANCES-1.-Annette announcing at a haunted house committee meeting that her own husband "will be taking time from his busy dental practice to play the role of Frankenstein. Skye didn't connect that Annette was her own DDS' wife, since they seemed like such an odd couple." [[Swanson choose a dentist for Dr. Paine's profession because "I think the idea came to me because you'd been talking to me about including a dentist and my own dentist had been asking for years for a dental scene in one of my books, so when I needed a prestigious occupation for her husband, it seemed like a good time to use a dentist." -2.- Dr. Paine, AKA Frankenstein, is told about his wife's death, 3.- Dr. Paine at his wife's funeral, 4.-& Skye talking to other people wondering if Dr. Paine killed his wife because maybe she found out he was such a sleezeball for messing around with other women. Someone wanted to know why people kept going to him if he was such a sleeze and the answer "because he's a great dentist." [[Swanson's reasoning for the last line, "My editor commented in her revision letter that she didn't think people would go to him if he was such a sleeze, but I know that once you find a good dentist you don't care what he does in his personal life, so I included the line mostly for her."]] 5.--Trixie Frayne, Skye's best friend, tells Skye 1 woman tells Dr. Paine, "You're the father of one of my kids." He gets the wrong idea & says, "Oh, my God! Are you the stripper from that club near O'Hare? The one that I banged on the couch during my buddy's stag party?" (She is his other kid's teacher.) 6.- Someone mentions they heard Paine was a womanizer, but didn't know he was that slimy."

When Skye hears gossip about Paine & Evie, "she needed to find out if the dental Don Juan had murdered his wife. She figures she has to go see him. "How do you get to see a dentist? By developing a toothache." Skye speaks to the receptionist & really pours it on & says she doesn't want a referral, and gets an appointment (remember Paine is out of the office in mourning for a couple of days). Skye begins to wonder if she should keep her dental appointment. She figures since they would usually banter during her appointments, maybe he would let something slip if he did "accidentally" kill his wife. When she gets there, she remembers his license plate read 2THDOX. THIS PART IS GREAT—When she gets to the office waiting room, no one or staff member is in sight. She waits, then asks if anyone is here? She didn't think the staff would have left the place unlocked, even thought she was the last appointment. Maybe she should go straight in. As she goes in, "anxiety spurted through her. It wasn't the pain that made her hate to go to the dentist; it was the noise and the smell. Today the office was as silent as a tomb; unfortunately, the odor of antiseptic and fear remained. She goes to the treatment area. She lets him know it is her there about her appointment. No answer. As she opens the door to one of the rooms, "Blond hair flowed over the headrest of the dental chair, and long pink nails clawed at a white butt going up and down like an oil derrick. The dentist wasn't filling a tooth, he was filling a much lower cavity. She closes the door. "Obviously Dylan Paine wouldn't be very cooperative if she interrupted him in

the middle of his crowning achievement. This proves Dr. Paine was indeed the Romeo of the rinse sink. [[The play on words are there because “My intention was to make a fairly sleazy scene funny instead of making people go ick.”]]

Thanks to Skye’s dental appointment, she hadn’t eaten her normal amount of Oreos. She was hungry. Skye confronts Evie about her tryst with Paine. She tells her she saw them at the office. “It seemed like quite a thorough checkup.” “You, Dylan Paine, and the dental chair of love.” Skye decides to confront Paine at the haunted house knowing he has patients from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. She tells him she was at the office but he was busy with Evie. He replies he hopes the receptionist rescheduled her because she forgot to tell him Skye had an appointment. She lets him know she didn’t have a toothache, she just wanted to talk to him about his wife’s murder. “As a dentist, you knew all about how to trigger a fatal asthma attack.” Paine puts in other appearances.

[Swanson added: “since he wasn’t guilty and has two kids still in school, there’s a good chance he’ll turn up, at least as a minor character, in future books.”]]

THE BATTERED BODY—J.B. Stanley

Librarian James Henry’s father Jackson & Milla are getting married Christmas Eve. Milla invites her sister Paulette Martine, a well-known TV show baker/host & cook book author, who’s called the Diva of Dough. She is going to make the wedding cake. Her children Chase Martin & Chloe Martin-Hicks, & her other sister Paulette, AKA The Devil Wears Prada who haven’t spoken in years, are also invited. Paulette arrives with her brow-beaten assistant Willow Singleton. Paulette is staying in the B & B Widow’s Peak where she has taken all the rooms. That is where she will bake the wedding cake.

Paulette really must have ticked off someone off because she’s found dead with her face in the cake batter. Hers isn’t the only murder.

There is also the case of the library’s missing toy elf Glowstar which full-time staff members twins Scott & Francis Fitzgerald use to keep the kids in line during story hour.

The Flab Five club members are upset that the mystery book *THE BODY IN THE BAKERY* that Murphy Alistair wrote uses negative caricatures of the club members. It’s gotten national coverage & a possible movie deal. She got the book idea from the body that was found in the Sweet Tooth bakery in town.

TOOTH PICKS--1. During the Christmas parade, lots of candy is being thrown to the children from the different floats. The voter registration float people are tossing candy canes. The lady yells as she is throwing the candy, “Too much candy will rot your teeth!” 2.-. The last float is a bus with Santa & the elves. They are smiling, displaying their “fake ‘redneck’ teeth, which protruded from their mouths in crooked rows of brown and yellow.” 3.-Diva Paulette did bake some cakes while doing a TV show in Quincy Gap. She then put the cakes on top of each other & used toothpicks in the measuring of the cake. Lindy talking to James figures she used a serrated knife to cut it. He replies, “She used dental floss. It slid right through the cake & each layer looked absolutely even.” [[Stanley replied: “Yes, floss can cut cake. As a matter of fact, it’s better than a knife sometimes - doesn’t get caught in the dough and the slice can often come out a lot neater than with a knife. I researched on the Internet, asked a baker, and then did it on some cakes myself. Recently, however, I bought an official cake slicer. It’s basically a thin wire attached to thin, metal handles. Same idea as the dental floss. I used Glide, btw, because that’s what my dentist gives me! Since I see him four times a year and he always gives me extra floss, I have plenty of Glide around. :)]] 4.-For some children’s furniture, Francis & Scott created a green reptile. They made jagged, Styrofoam cup teeth for it. 5.-James was eating pizza and “did his best to chew it using only his molars, thus exaggerating the side-to-side motion of his jaw” as his was trying to imitate a lion. The child with him was told to rip his pizza apart with his giant lion teeth. 6.-. When a child asked Jackson to help him with a tower he was building, Jackson smiled, showing more teeth than James knew he possessed...” 7.-Milla is talking to James about moving out. :I’m gonna cry every time you leave our house.” James comes back with, “You cry over toothpaste commercials.” 8.-Dealing with another woman-“Repelled by her yellow teeth, which were partially stained pink by punch, James backed away from her a fraction.”

LIFE SENTENCES Laura Lippman

Almost 50 year-old Cassandra Fallows has written 2 good memoirs, but her fiction hasn’t done well. She lives in NY but moves to Baltimore temporarily to do research for her next book. She grew up there in a “racially diverse middle-class neighborhood”. Her parents divorced, & she’s been divorced twice & has a married lover. Cassandra decides to write about a girl, who didn’t have it easy, at a school she left when she was young,. She discovers it isn’t easy tracking down people, childhood memories may not always be correct, & our past might be best left alone.

ALL DENTAL ALL THE TIME is what Lippman does. 1. (Cassandra didn’t speak until she was 3) “Within twenty-four hours, my words came in, like a full set of teeth. 2. “But now she (Cassandra) read on, interested in Bukowski’s list of things that led to insanity. Car troubles, dental problems, a fifty-cent avocado. (*How quaint*, she thought.) These were, for the most part, the very things she had dreaded in her twenties and thirties. Car repairs, dental work-never adequately covered, no matter how good the health care plan. [Remember Lippman has had dental problems.] 3. ‘She clicked back to Google’s rectangular mouth, always ready to be filled.’ 4. “Such as Fatima going upstairs with Karl, the one who had a mustache in the sixth grade- probably because he had been left back three times-and going into one of the bedrooms, and he asked her for oral sex, and she didn’t know what it was, but she didn’t want to seem ignorant, she said sure-and used her teeth.” 5. Cassandra is talking to Tisha-“I remember you wanted three kids.----Three kids and your husband was going to be an architect.’ ‘Orthodontist,’ Tisha said. ‘Regular hours, not a lot of emergencies, and there’s always a new crop of snaggle-toothed children up.’” “As Tisha’s Michael liked to say,’ Doctors and dentists do okay, but the guy who *sues* the doctors and dentists do okay, but the guy who *sues* the doctors and dentists does better.” 6. “Annie was beautiful, yes, the mild flaws of her face—the space between the front teeth, the apple roundness, the heavy brows that she never tended-balancing out the cartoonish perfection of her body.” --The gap is mentioned again--“She granted her father his love-at-first-sight version, but she was not required to point out that this love was sparked by Annie’s gorgeous shape, her beguiling face whose only flaw was the gap between her front teeth. Her father adored that gap.” 7. When

Cassandra was a child, she asked her mother if breasts hurt when they come in. Her mom asked where she got that idea. Cassandra replied, 'Teeth hurt, when you're a baby.' Her mother answered, 'Well, teeth have to break through the gum. Your breasts just...grow.' It was hard for me to see the difference, except that teeth were hard." 8. "It was unlike what happened when Martin Amis published *The Information*, and all the press was about his agent and his teeth and his marriage."

SCATTERED GRAVES -Beverly Connor Because Diane Fallon is a forensic anthropologist there's quite a bit of dental in this series. Rosewood, Georgia's

Fallon has lots happening in her life, & it isn't positive. Someone tries to kill her. Is it just this person or is it a conspiracy? He's given her trouble before, but he's the 1 to die, which doesn't please the cops. When Spence Jefferies is elected mayor, he tries to sneak in someone to replace her as crime lab head, & to remove the crime lab from the museum. Jefferies & police chief Wilson are both murdered. A 13 year-old boy finds some bones on his grandfather's farm land & brings them to Diane. Then the bones disappear. Throw in museum & visitor harassment.

DENTAL BITS TO CHEW ON: 1. "Scientists had to look for DNA in inner protected places like the roots of teeth & deep in the long bones." 2. Muscles anchored to the head for chewing pass through the zygomatic arch and attach to the lower mandible." There is more on the arch and jaw muscles. 3. "She looked at her mouth and her teeth. Thank God, her teeth weren't damaged." 4. "His white toothbrush mustache bobbed up and down..." 5. "*This isn't going to be fun*, thought Diane. All in all, she'd rather be having her teeth pulled." 6. "One of the bones was a front portion of a maxilla with a tooth still imbedded in it-an incisor....." "the most helpful was the incisor. The root of the tooth would be a good place to find usable DNA. She turned it over in her hand and saw that it was a shovel-tooth incisor.-most common in Asian populations." 7. One guy offers to show Diane & her crew his shovel-tooth incisor, but he is eating so they decline that view. There's more dental especially with the DNA

Lisa See's **SHANGHAI GIRLS**, taking place between 1937 & 1950s, deals with 2 sisters in Shanghai who are what I would call sold into arranged marriages with brothers who are living in Los Angeles' Chinatown. What these sisters felt for each other, what each is like, what their lives were like before the arranged marriages, how they got to Los Angeles, & what they went through, & what life was like for them & the family they married into in Los Angeles is the story. The historical part of how the Chinese people were treated in the 1950s here & the U.S. relationship with China at that time was so interesting.

DENTAL BITS—1."I close my eyes and try –to ignore everything they're doing, but my teeth itch to bite the man on top of me."-2. we still have a little money to buy toothpaste..." 3. Uncle Fred went into the US army so he could also get an education. He came out being a DDS. 4. "I begin to question my dreams, recalling what Mama said about them: if you dream of losing teeth, then someone in the family will die..." 5. "Fred's stint in the service, his college years, and his dental practice have nearly erased his accent."