

## The Missing Case Files - Talk Like a Poirot Day Final Results, October 5, 2024

You might be wondering why I've gathered you all here to read an email....months later...

I totally blame the court system.  
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To anyone else, it might have been an accident. A stuck valve on the dispenser, a distracted pump too many on the syrup.

But Rosa Chow, former chemist and late night television personality, had received a message from the woman, claiming to be an Oracle, who had the Psychic Enemies Network (P.E.N. for short) show on right before hers.

"If you serve this concentrated can of Sumac Soda, the future will be effervescent." the Oracle told Rosa. And indeed, when she served up her extra powerful, extra vicious Sumac soda to the man in the dinosaur costume, he experienced the Raptor.

He roared. He howled. He bubbled and foamed at the mouth. And then he stomped off, crashing through a tent in some sort of faux murderous rampage.

If Rosa knew she'd murdered him, she certainly didn't show any remorse.

Meanwhile, across town, Frances Adams was butchering her role in the final summer stock theatre on the final stage of the month. 'Twas the night before the full moon, and it made the nape of her neck itch. (And really, the rest of her, too.) Only her former coworker, Justin Timberpine, understood – the two of them were werewolves, and while Justin had gone on to fame and fortune and a Lear jet, Frances was stuck doing small stage productions. Although the current one, 'Who's Afraid of Virginia, Wolf?' was a blast, her real reason for waylaying the understudy was the man who had season tickets, Professor Parker Plumtree. He didn't recognize her with the makeup, false wig, and years of stage training. There was a charity raffle, and she arranged it so Plumtree would win a free aerial tour of the Bermuda Triangle. Piloted by her.

And since she had a seaplane, she didn't have to use the airport where (Were) Justin was busy being a vlogger and giving a concert, so that nobody saw her take off. And with the plane on autopilot, she sank her satin-gloved claws (not to be confused with Santa Claus, aka Kris "Pringle" Gavello), and booted him out of the plane into the lake well before she got to the Bermuda Triangle.

The police and the Rallye detectives were hot on the trail of the murderers. Or so they thought. It was common knowledge that Justin Timberpine was a Werewolf, so when unnatural fur and claw marks were found on Plumtree's body, quite a few people thought he was the suspect. But whether he was working with Frances or not, he had an air tight alibi - he was on an airplane at the airport shooting commercials for his Oleander Lotion – made in Barcelona, and marketed as “Ole’ Faceful.”

But Rosa did not factor in the cunning of the detectives. Although some teams chased down Kris Pringle, because they didn't believe his Santa act for one moment, and some photobombed Justin in the middle of a set, many of the teams did indeed track the correct culprits down.

Complicating things was the work of the Assistant DA, Sue M. who did her best to set up a Miss Trial, by giving people false court dates.

But in the end, crime did not pay.

“I believe I have solved ze case!” called out the teams headed by Detectives Poppe, Andersen, and Watt. Separately, they had found the flight logs, the ticket stubs from the play, and one of them had picked up a werewolf of their own who had been looking for a good Halloween party. While not the murderer himself, said werewolf was instrumental in ruling out “that other Werewolf with the really good hair.”

As they hauled Frances off to the supernatural dog pound, she growled, “And I would have gotten away with it if it wasn't for you Rallyeists and your little potatoes, too.”

Meanwhile, Rosa had been trailed, followed, and tracked down mercilessly by the inevitable logic of teams Moy/Hosey/Stanton and the speedy team of the House of Huang, the latter of who had also sent a telegram ahead about the treachery of Frances as well, and found a crucial clue while contemplating the font choices of a DIP in the road.

When finally apprehended, she claimed no knowledge of her actions, but the evidence was clear; Soda, Fair well, it's Alcatraz for her, and it was time for her to face the sound of music.

----- Scores -----

Class	Place	Car	Driver	Navigator	Passengers	Score
Beginner	1	10	Yeheng Zhang	Johanna He		860
Novice	1	14	Joe Rodolfa	Kit Rodolfa	Aaron Anderson	820
Senior	1	13	Mae Huang	Wei-Hwa Huang	Trisha Huang	935
Senior	2	7	Robert French	Jenny Pratt		820
Senior		11	Jim Kermode			DNF
Expert	1	9	Ed Ruben			910
Expert	2	1	Matt Poppe	Herman Poppe		880
Expert		12	Steve Watt	Anita Hollister		875
Expert		15	Brian Andersen	Michelle Jolly	Rich Botin	870
Expert		8	Ed Slintak			810
Expert		4	Bob Hirsch			640
Master Expert	1	3	Tony Moy	Peter Hosey	Dean Stanton	880
Master Expert	2	2	Dave Graubart	Cris Wendt		850
Master Expert		6	Jerry Sotirhos	Marilyn Sotirhos	Daniel Sothiros	830
Master Expert		5	Rich Slusher	Curtis Ardourel		815

Thank you all for your patience, both for the arduousness and audacity of tossing a Murdle logic bomb in the middle of a Rallye. I'd wanted to do something completely different, and the results weren't quite all that they cracked up to be, but both cases were cracked in the end, and one team cracked -both-.

## Overall notable results:

- 11 teams got potatoes (Glen wanted to hide a clue inside the potato and I seriously considered it, but this wasn't the Monster Mash...).
- 7 teams got the See-Krate note and the additional RI 43, and 6 teams told me they had solved zee case per its instructions, but I suspect one team did it because they saw someone else do it. Sneaky!
- 5 teams gave a Werewolf a lift, and 2 teams gave Clara a lift. Time to jump in the HOV lane!
- 4 teams correctly solved the Investigation puzzle, with several more getting partial credit
- 2 teams correctly solved the Logic puzzle, with a handful getting partial credit.
- Most teams (12) found the acrostic, but only two teams correctly left RI 40 blank.

## Thank You Again To...

This would not have been possible without the efforts of:

- My amazing precheckers (Ken, Jill, and Eric)
- Registrars (Eric again and Kat)
- And the dynamic and diabolical CP duo of Abby ("Assistant D.A. Sue M.") and Glen. ("Doctor Tubes").

Next year's October Surprise is already in the planning stages. I promise it will be shorter, and there won't be a logic puzzle to solve while running the Rallye, but might be something more warped in its place...

-Jeff "D.A. A.C. Rostic" Young, Rallyemaster (jeffrey.taldin.young@gmail.com)

# Logic Puzzle Solution

	Suspects				Locations				Motives				
	Ev	Ju	Kr	Ro	Sun	Gra	San	Air	Ora	Pon	Pop	Val	
Weapons	MB	X <sub>(36)</sub>	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	O <sub>(36)</sub>	X <sub>(36)</sub>	X <sub>(15, 24, 26)</sub>	X	O	X	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>	O <sub>(CP2, X3)</sub>	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>
	Sum	X <sub>(38)</sub>	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(36)</sub>	O <sub>(38)</sub>	O <sub>(15)</sub>	X <sub>(15)</sub>	X <sub>(15)</sub>	X <sub>(15)</sub>	O	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(X4)</sub>
	Ole	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	O <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(15)</sub>	X	X	O	X <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>	O <sub>(21, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(X4)</sub>
	Dag	O	X <sub>(12)</sub>	X <sub>(36)</sub>	X <sub>(38)</sub>	X <sub>(15)</sub>	O	X	X	X <sub>(X4)</sub>	X <sub>(CP2)</sub>	X <sub>(X4)</sub>	O <sub>(X4)</sub>
Motives	Ora	X <sub>(29, X4)</sub>	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(29)</sub>	O <sub>(29)</sub>	O	X <sub>(23)</sub>	X	X <sub>(X5)</sub>				
	Pon	X <sub>(X4)</sub>	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	O	X <sub>(29)</sub>	X	X <sub>(23)</sub>	O	X <sub>(37)</sub>				
	Pop	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	O <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	X	X <sub>(23)</sub>	X	O				
	Val	O <sub>(X4)</sub>	X <sub>(CP1, X6)</sub>	X <sub>(X4)</sub>	X <sub>(29)</sub>	X <sub>(23)</sub>	O <sub>(23)</sub>	X <sub>(23)</sub>	X <sub>(23)</sub>				
Locations	Sun	X	X	X <sub>(X1)</sub>	O								
	Gra	O	X	X <sub>(X1)</sub>	X								
	San	X <sub>(X1)</sub>	X <sub>(X1)</sub>	O <sub>(X1)</sub>	X <sub>(5)</sub>								
	Air	X	O	X <sub>(X1)</sub>	X <sub>(37, X5)</sub>								

Suspects - Evelyn, Justin, Kris, Rosa

Weapons - Mahogany Bat, Sumac Soda, Oleander Lotion, Silver Dagger

Motives - Oracle, Ponderosa, Popular, Valerian

Locations - Sunny's Vale Fair, Grandview Terrace, San Francisco, Airport at Miramar

## C-Krets and Lies

Most of the info was found using the C-Krets that were true, but a couple of false answers were helpful too. Some of the clues were redundant on purpose.

RI	Relevant to the Logic Puzzle?	Notes
4	No	We establish that Kris's last name is Gavello, which is more for the Investigation puzzle.
5	Yes	Because this is a -false- answer, we know that Rosa was not at the Golden Gate Bridge in SF.
8	No	Similarly, now we know Justin's last name is Timberpine and he's a werewolf.
9	Indirectly	Rosa is an alchemist so she can mix things.
12	Yes	Justin is a werewolf, so he can't have the dagger (we put an X in Justin/Dagger)
15	Yes	Sumac Soda can be purchased at the Fair, so put an O there. And Xs in the other spots vertically and horizontally because no other Weapons can be at the Fair.
21	Yes	Justin has the Oleander lotion. Add an O to Justin and Oleander. You can also add Xs to the other spots because Justin can't have any other weapon.
23	Yes	Whoever wanted to win the Valerian Contract can be found at the Grand Terrace. Add O to Valerian and Grand Terrace and Xs in the other spots.
24	Yes	Since this is a false answer, the Mahogany Bat is -not- at the Fair. (But we already knew that from 15.)
CP 1	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The person using Oleander cream wanted to be popular. And since we know that was Justin, that fills in the Motive for him.</li> <li>- The person who owned the Mahogany Bat's listed address is the Ponderosa Ranch. Means that the person who wanted to save the Ponderosa has</li> </ul>
2	Yes	

		the bat, so you can fill in the rows and column for that.
26	Yes	The Silver Tip Dagger can't be found at the Fair. (This is backup in case you missed the other two and also as camouflage so you couldn't deduce the puzzle from the RIs.)
29	Indirectly	Subtle; the Oracle made a blonde person mix a batch of poison. Since we already ruled out Justin, and we know that Kris has white hair, and Evelyn looks like Jackie O (who has dark hair), that leaves Rosa, the Alchemist who was compelled by the Oracle.
35	Yes	False answer, so Kris -doesn't- want to be popular.
36	Yes	Ties Kris to the Ponderosa, which means he has the Mahogany Bat.
37	Yes	False answer, so the person who wanted to save the Ponderosa was not at the Miramar Airport. We know that this is Kris, so Kris is not at the Airport.
38	Yes	Viscous = sticky, which points to the Sumac Soda. Now we know the murderer is Rosa. You might think this also could apply to Justin with the Oleander Lotion, except his motive is to be Popular.
42	Indirectly	Added because one of the precheckers suggested it, but works with 29.
Extras X1 X2  X3  X4 X5 X6 X7	Yes Slightly  Slightly  Yes Somewhat Slightly Yes	Extra 'known true' hints were available at the finish line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kris Pringle was at the Golden Gate Bridge.</li> <li>• The person who wanted to save the Ponderosa was not at Grandview Terrace. (But we already knew it was Kris.)</li> <li>• We already know Kris had the Mahogany Bat at the Ponderosa. (X2 and X3 provided in case you got things wrong.)</li> <li>• Since we established Evelyn has the knife, she wants to win the Valerian contract.</li> <li>• The Oracle's agent can't be at the Airport. But we already figured out Rosa was at the Fair, right?</li> <li>• Confirms Justin, Oleander, Popular.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EO - Evelyn Onassis wanted the Valerian contract. Concurr with X4.</li></ul>
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