The Story

21 July 2012

It was a cold and miserable Saturday afternoon when Edna Echidna found Eddie lying face down in a puddle of water in their rear garden. It was 3 pm. She quickly notified the police. The last time she had seen Eddie alive was earlier in the day when he had been arguing with his cousin, Ernie Echidna.

Ernie had lent Eddie his ladder and was distraught when he came to collect it and saw that it was broken. Two weeks previously Edna and Wilmer Wombat, the next-door neighbour, had overheard Ernie say to Eddie, “I’ll wring your neck if you break my ladder!”

The police sergeant, William Wallaby, and homicide detective, Fabius Fox, arrived at the scene at about 3.20 pm to conduct their enquiries. They took fingerprints, photographs and conducted interviews.

Later in the week the coroner, Georgina Goanna, concluded that Eddie had died at about 2 pm on Saturday, 21 July 2012, by asphyxiation, probably caused by a person strangling the victim’s neck. The pathologist, Maxwell Magpie, stated that the marks left on Eddie’s neck led him to believe the assailant was left-handed.

William and Fabius interviewed Ernie shortly after Eddie’s death and again when the coroner released his report. Ernie protested his innocence. He was positive he had left Eddie’s house at about 1.30 pm because it would take him about 30 minutes to get to the football match he attended that day. He distinctly remembered seeing the opening bounce at 2 pm when Eric Emu thumped the ball to his rover, Peter Possum.

Whilst Ernie admitted to being left-handed, he still pleaded his innocence. He offered information to support his alibi. When he left Eddie’s place he had walked passed the local bookmaker, Reggie the Rat, in the driveway. Reggie grunted when Ernie had greeted him and he did not seem to be in a very good mood. Reggie could confirm that Eddie was alive after he left.

Ernie also claimed that he had argued with a supporter at the football match mid way through the first quarter. The man had a black patch over his eye, a parrot on his shoulder and a wooden leg. Ernie didn’t know the man’s name but was confident he could be easily identified.

William and Fabius interviewed Reggie the Rat but he denied ever going to Eddie’s house. His side-kicks, Slippery Sam Snake and Lennie the Lizard confirmed that Reggie had been with them all day Saturday in the betting house.

The police could not find the one-eyed supporter. No player or official of either club had ever seen or heard of the man.

Fabius arrested Ernie and read him his rights. Ernie was taken to the police station where he was charged with murder. Bail was denied.

Ernie contacted the famous lawyer, Rumpole Rabbit, to defend him. Rumpole immediately employed the services of super sleuth, Barry Bloodhound. Barry soon found the one-eyed supporter. His name was Silver Seagull. Unfortunately the man was short-sighted and was noted for his poor memory. Barry was also able to confirm through reliable witnesses that at the opening bounce Eric Emu did thump the ball to Peter Possum.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

•MAGISTRATE (Committal Proceedings)

Kevin KANGAROO

•POLICE PROSECUTOR (Committal Proceedings)

Constable DINGO

•PRESIDING OFFICER (Supreme Court Trial)

JUSTICE PELICAN

•SHERIFF

Percy PENGUIN

•CROWN PROSECUTOR

Clara CROCODILE

•THE ASSOCIATE

Patrick PLATYPUS

•JURY FOREPERSON

Oliver OWL