

The Case of the Vanishing Pie

My name is Mabel Pike. I ran the Tern Harbor post office for forty years, so I notice things. On the night of the Harvest Supper at the Grange Hall, I noticed that Delia Marsh's blue-ribbon apple pie was gone.

At twenty minutes to six I peeked into the Grange kitchen. The pie was cooling on the windowsill, golden and perfect. At five minutes to six there was nothing on that sill but a few crumbs.

Four neighbors came in the back door that evening, one every quarter hour, to drop off supper: Amos Kittredge, Hattie Crowell, Rosalind Tibbetts and Walt Bixby. Each brought one thing: clam chowder, cornbread, baked beans, or a crate of apple cider.

My basset hound, Biscuit, was the first suspect, naturally. But Biscuit had spent the whole evening tied to the coat rack beside me, snoring.

Then I found it: a trail of crust crumbs leading straight to the wooden crate the cider jugs came in, and a smear of apple filling on its handle. **Whoever brought the cider took that pie.**

Nobody could quite remember who brought what, but between us we pieced together the facts on the next page. Can you work out who carried in the cider?

Mabel's first big case unfolds one chapter and one puzzle a day, December 1 to Christmas Eve, in the **Large Print Murder Mystery Advent Calendar**.

PUZZLE 6 • SOLVE THE CASE

Who Brought the Cider?

Use the facts to fill in the chart. Mark an **X** where something is impossible and a **dot** where it must be true. Each person arrived at one time and brought one thing.

- 1. Amos Kittredge was the first to arrive, at 5:00.
- 2. The cornbread came in exactly fifteen minutes after the chowder.
- 3. Hattie Crowell brought neither the cornbread nor the cider.
- 4. Walt Bixby arrived some time after Hattie Crowell.
- 5. The baked beans arrived at 5:30.

	5:00	5:15	5:30	5:45	Chowder	Cornbread	Baked Beans	Cider
Amos Kittredge								
Hattie Crowell								
Rosalind Tibbetts								
Walt Bixby								

The cider (and the pie) came from: _____

ANSWERS

Cryptogram, Mystery and Trivia

Puzzle 4: Cryptogram

“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Puzzle 6: The Case of the Vanishing Pie

Amos arrived first, at 5:00. The chowder cannot have come at 5:30 (that was the beans) or at 5:45 (the cornbread would have been at 6:00), and if it came at 5:15 the cornbread would land on 5:30, the beans' slot. So the chowder came at 5:00 with Amos, and the cornbread at 5:15. Hattie brought neither the cornbread nor the cider, so she brought the beans at 5:30. Walt came after her, at 5:45, with the **cider**, which leaves Rosalind with the cornbread at 5:15. **Walt Bixby took the pie.** He arrived just after Mabel's 5:40 peek, slipped the pie into his empty cider crate and carried it out to his truck "to save it from the crowd." He brought it back with one slice missing, and Delia made him wash every dish in the Grange to settle the score.

Puzzle 7: 1976 Trivia

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| 1. C) 200 | 6. B) Mars |
| 2. B) Jimmy Carter | 7. B) Rocky |
| 3. A) Apple | 8. A) Cincinnati Reds |
| 4. B) Montreal | 9. B) Steelers |
| 5. A) Concorde | 10. B) Enterprise |