

At ~~6:24~~ 7:02, still not having eaten his

dinner, Max trudged off to the mail box at

27th & Shady Lane. ~~The~~ After mailing the letter,

he shuffled back in the gathering twilight,

picked up the evening paper, went into the bathroom,

skipped a couple of dukewain
noted the headlines, ~~he~~ turned to the comics. He was

into the tub ~~and~~ by the time he turned to "Archie's

Advice" and realized he had done all this before.

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At 2: ~~30~~ 29 p.m. two days later in a
metropolis ~~of~~ two states away, George Gamble, alias
Angelo Mento, opened Max Bruno's letter.

Dear Angie: "it read" In your letter to "Puzzled"

you say that it had spread rumors & ~~that is~~

I agree. My problem is how do you get others to

stop. My best friend ~~is~~ & his wife are victims

of this same sort of rumor & I would like to ~~help~~

put a stop to it. If there's nothing to this

rumor, it would be simple, but I can't stop people

from talking if there's anything to the rumor "Puzzled"

~~Dear~~ Ordinarily, there is a tremendous ~~line~~

lag between ~~my~~ ~~for~~ the time I've received a letter
of the time ~~she~~ ~~replies~~. Her reply is published. As a matter
of fact, ~~sometimes~~ ^{often} the time lag is so great as to ~~make~~ ^{render} her
reply meaningless. Take the case of the Bewildered Blonde
who wrote "Dear Angie. My husband is ^{the type of man}
who likes blondes so I bleached my hair. Dad ^{is the}
wonderful, strong, virile electrician who came ^{to} ~~live~~
^{220 lines into} ~~live~~ in our house. He seems to like blondes too &
I just don't know what to do. Should I let my
natural color come back? Bewildered Blonde"

Angie's ~~reply~~ advice appeared eight weeks
later & made very good reading: "~~Don't~~ Dear
Bewildered," she ~~had~~ ^{had} advised, "Don't let yourself
be taken in by the electrician's line as you may be
in for a shock." Unfortunately ~~at~~ ^{the} advice
was too late, the blonde had already let herself be
swept off her feet by a vacuum cleaner salesman
& had run off with him while the electrician
made contact with a real live ^{wire} of a red head
who lives ~~in~~ blocks from the blonde.

Max's letter, however, merited ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{immediate}
response because it was a follow-up ~~letter~~ ^{letter} to me

published. Therefore, she notified her syndicate that
his letter and her reply be run as soon as possible.

Therefore ~~is~~ ~~five~~ exactly one week after we
had written, Max, who had looked ~~at every paper~~
~~time~~ looked for it eagerly every night found his
letter & Angie's reply —

"Dear ~~My~~ Puzgled too: ~~the~~ I admire you ~~for~~
not only for not wanting to participate in vicious
rumors but also for wanting to stop slandering talk.
I agree that you cannot effectively silence rumors if
there is truth behind the rumor though I think it
objectionable to indulge in rumors in any case. As ~~the~~
the victim is your best friend, I think it proper
for you to go to him & tell him, 'There are a lot of
ugly rumors flying about, all are they're not
true & I'll go out and tell everyone to quit uttering
such rot.' —

At 8:15 that evening, ^{after considerable rehearsal} Max went to
the Muraw's home. Dave Muraw answered the door &
greeted Max warmly. This made Max's task easier &
he began "Dave, there are a lot of ugly rumors

about you and Goeta flying about. Tell me ^{they}
not true + I'll go & tell people to quit ^{attending}
not."

At 8:18 Dave gathered himself off the
Mariano lawn minus a left central incisor & a lateral.
He had gained a puffed lip, a bruise on ^{the} ~~side~~ ^{cheek} & a ^{bruise}
shut.