

You are invited to come out to the Annual Hickleberry County Fair! Several of the county's most hilarious and notorious people are getting together for a memorable and suspenseful evening of home-cookin', good music, and a mystery to solve that is sure to knock your socks off! Memories will be made, but not all will be so sweet as Mrs. Witherspoon's prize-winning cherry pies. You see, the rumor is there's been a murder...

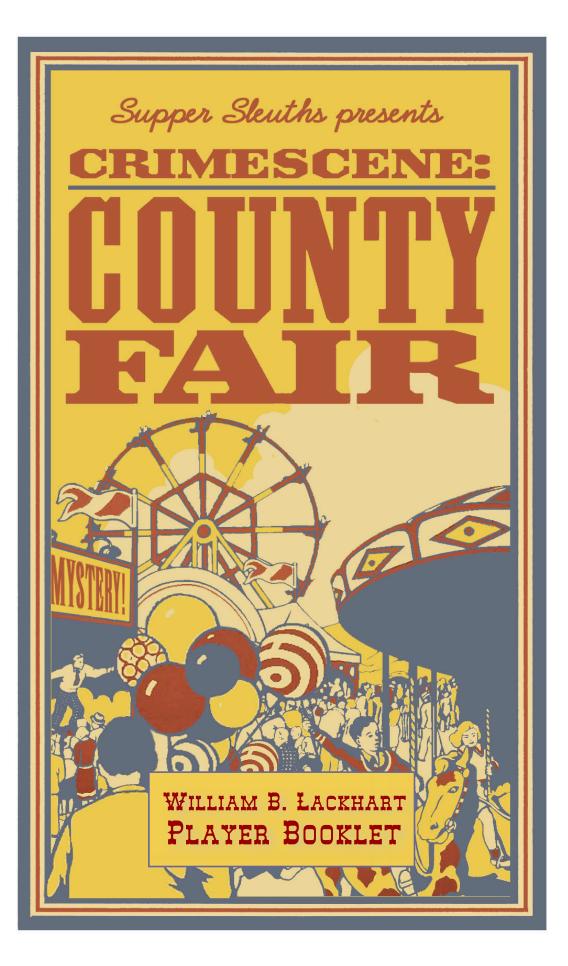
Please come to the home of		_ at	_o'clock
on the night of	at this address		
R.S.V.P. to			

You will play the role of William B. Lackhart

As mayor, you are very glad your town is site to the Hickleberry County Fair each year. You have fought hard to keep it here, and you want the fair to run as smoothly as possible so the townspeople will be sure to vote for you again. The fair brings in more money for your town than all of the years' other events combined, but lately some have complained that the money and people it brings in are dirty. You are a fast-talking people-pleaser. Whenever you see things getting ugly throughout the evening conversation, say things like "Now everything is just fine and dandy," "Isn't this fun?" and "This is going so well!" Since you are always thinking about re-election and don't like your town given a bad rap, defend everything about yourself and your town relentlessly, showing suspicion only toward the outsiders, J.L. Mackabee and Mme Soothini.

Costume Suggestion: Wear cheap, but dressy clothes in an attempt to look powerful. Wear your hair heavily slicked back with gel, and wear a nice cowboy hat. Bring a cigar (even if you don't light it up for the occasion).

Be sure to visit <u>www.suppersleuths.com</u> to learn about the other characters who will attend, and for more helpful resources to prepare for the occasion!



## WILLIAM B. ŁACKHART PLAYER BOOKLET AND SECRET CLUE

#### HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

This room is full of murder suspects – and you are one of them! You must try to figure out who the murderer is tonight, by both accusing your fellow players and also trying to convince everyone else that you are innocent.

This game has four rounds, each round revealing new pieces of information about each character. Do not turn the page in your player's booklet until the host tells you to do so.

On the top of each page is information you are to share with the whole group. You can either ad lib or read directly from the page, but make sure that before moving on to the next round, you share all information on the top of each page with the whole group.

On the bottom of the page, you will see hidden information about your character. Do not reveal this information until you think it is the appropriate time. You may not lie if someone asks you about this information, but you do not need to offer incriminating evidence about yourself without a direct question. However, if you find out that you are the murderer, DO NOT TELL! If asked about it, you should say, "I am not aware of that information at this time," or just lie if you have to. Likewise, if someone asks you a question you do not know the answer to, just say, "I am not aware of that information at this time." The murderer is the only one permitted to lie at any time in this game.

There are also 8 secret clues that different players will reveal throughout the night. Make sure you do not look at your clue until your player's booklet tells you to look at it and pass it around to the group. When that time comes, just detach it and pass it around. You may also use the next page to take notes throughout the evening.

At the start of the game, the killer is not aware of his or her identity – it could even be you! Be suspicious of everyone's motives, and remain in character throughout the evening. After dessert, you will be given a chance to make your accusation. You may accuse any player of being the killer, including yourself. However, you must give evidence from the clues, and again, DO NOT TELL if the booklet says you are the killer! Have fun!

#### LIST OF CHARACTERS

**Chester Finkowski** – An Elvis impersonator who absolutely obsesses over his belief that "the King" is still alive, well and returning soon. Mr. Presley here may be in disguise for a reason deeper than rock and roll!

Madame Mona Soothini - A gypsy who makes her fortune selling yours, Mme Soothini is sure to attend the fair every year, but she can't be found as the fairgrounds close. Why she rushes off and where she goes is not clear, even when viewed through her crystal.

**Travis Buckland** - This handsome stud rides like he's got nothing to lose. He seems like a good of boy, just lookin' for thrills, but can a guy this reckless be trusted? Is he just talking bull?

**Tiffany Ann Canterway** - This sophisticated, attractive and arrogant horsewoman is a 4H snob and owner of Canterway Stables, the largest equestrian site in the whole county. She has participated in fundraising for the fair for years, but when she doesn't get her way, how long will her short fuse...and funding last?

**J.L. Mackabee** – This trucker loves a good county fair and has been to this one for the past 14 years. J.L. may look like any wide-eyed country kin of yours, but when he's on the road and on the radio, he's mixin' with all kinds. Some say he used to be in jail.

Ida Witherspoon - As a farmer's wife and notorious town gossip, Ida is the reigning quilting and cherry-berry pie champ in the county. Mrs. Witherspoon seems to have no real competition for the blue ribbon this year...so why has she been such an "old bitty" lately?

William B. Lackhart - Local mayor, Lackhart, feels the pressure to please all and to have a good fair each year. But whether he also plays fair to get votes is still out at the polls.

Cindy Sue Sweetly – Last year's "Berry-Beauty" queen, this year Cindy reluctantly passed her crown onto another young girl. She wears that flashy smile wherever she goes but some say that she never smiles when she doesn't know who's there.

#\OTES	

#### **APPETIZERS**

#### SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.

Fine citizens and countrymen! I greet you tonight with a gracious heart for your willingness to come to this meetin' to sort out some misunderstandings. I am sad to hear of our loss of a good friend and brother by heart, Mr. Roy Parsley. I am glad I got to judge the fair with him one more year as he and I go back to high school, and have been solid friends ever since. I am losing a brother in this fine man. But (clearing your throat). we need to remember what he gave us. Adventure, fun, kindness, and good business for our town. May we not lose sight of that. I am sure the other judges of the fair including Tiffany and Travis, are as sad as I am having also known Roy for years.

In a harder tone: But J.L. Mackabee, and Madame Mona, Soothy-say I don't feel safe in your presence, as you all are stranger-folks. We never did see a murder here in these parts for years, and with your company, I'm afraid we're none the better. I've got my eyes on you two tonight.

## HIDDEN INFORMATION: (DO NOT SHARE UNTIL YOU FEEL IT'S NECESSARY.)

Rumor has it, the auctioneer was going to run for mayor this year and he was a very good candidate for the job. He had a clean record, a good attitude, and plenty of grass-roots popularity.

WILLIAM B. LACKHART



#### Soup/Salad

#### SHARE THIS ONLY IF ACCUSED OF MOB RELATIONS.

Let's get something straight. I am **not** in the mob! The **last** thing I need is that kind of negative media attention and pressure to do things I don't want to do. On the other hand, you have to feel for some of these criminals who get cheated out of their entire lives for committing one mistake. I bring them hope and occasionally a pardon. What, is helping my fellow man a **crime**? Does **that** make me a **murderer**?! I think not. My platform has always been about the health, peace, and prosperity of all local citizens. For goodness sake! I am probably the best person ever raised up in this county. My fellow countrypersons, I need you to stand behind me as we make this long journey together on the pursuit of life, liberty, happiness, and good times.

#### HIDDEN INFORMATION:

You have no new hidden information at this time. Feel free to ad lib and focus on the food!

WILLIAM B. ŁACKHART



#### MAIN COURSE

#### SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER IDA WITHERSPOON.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you know, we in Hickleberry rely upon the fair because it ensures another year of wealth and fame amongst the nearby communities. Yes, it is great to bring in money and publicity from the outside, but not trashy people and murderers! I sincerely believe this murder and the horse robbery can both be pinned on one of the outsiders. I have been meaning for years to ask the paper to print a big story on this very issue. And further, due to the problems associated with these outsiders, only fine citizens from our county will be able to work the fair next year. I plan to set it in stone as soon as I return to my office tomorrow morning. Trust me, my good people, if you listen to me, we will remove any chance for a repeat offense and ensure a more safe and secure event.

### HIDDEN INFORMATION: (Do not share until you feel it's necessary.)

You are **not** directly involved with the mob. However, Roy knew about your connections with certain other wealthy criminals. You have exchanged many favors for votes in your time, and you are afraid the skeletons are about to come out of the closet. If exposed, you would not only fail to be re-elected, but the next term you would serve would be 15-20 years in the slammer.

WILLIAM B. LACKHART



#### DESSERT

#### SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE GROUP AFTER J.L. MACKABEE.

Luckily for me, I have special privileges to all of your records as a city leader. I am not at all surprised that the police gave me a copy of Monica's crime report. Yes, Monica! Ms. Soothysay over there, is actually Monica Soothman, a plain Jane from New York. She's got a history here that speaks of death and lies. In fact, I wouldn't doubt it if her boss, ol' Roy, was on to her and putting on some heat about this. Take a look here at her criminal history report.

#### (Detach your clue, read it aloud, pass it around, and continue to share your information.)

My dear brothers and sisters. I beg of you to accept my sincerest offer of apology for any stress this criminal has brought into our fine community. I believe it is my duty to offer a safe, enjoyable setting for our lives, and I have failed to purge the weeds out so that the flowers would thrive. As you have seen today, the beautiful flowers, like you, Tiffany and Cindy Sue, have been needlessly trampled on and poison ivy has taken over. I demand a sacred purity exist, and a separation of the good and evil. I hold power to do this; all I ask is for your trust and your ballot. Thank you all, and goodnight.

## HIDDEN INFORMATION: (DO NOT SHARE UNTIL YOU FEEL IT'S NECESSARY.)

You voted for Ida Witherspoons' barely edible pies and scratchy quilts because she promised you her husband's good crops all year if you got her the blue ribbon. However, the auctioneer knew of the scandal with the farmed goods because he rejected the same offer, and was planning to expose you for being bribed year after year by Ida. You want peace because it pays into your pocket, so you must keep accusing outsiders, to avoid your own town getting a bad reputation.

WILLIAM B. ŁACKHART



#### SOLVE THE MYSTERY

Take a few moments to think through the following questions, look over your notes, and decide for yourself who committed the murder. There are a lot of crooked guests here, but only one is the murderer!

but only one is the murderer!
Motive: Who would most want to kill this person? Why?
<b>Weapon:</b> Who would have had the means to do so?
Overall Evidence: Whom does the evidence point to most strongly?
·· <b>×</b> ······
I, William B. Lackhart, believe
committed the murder of

committed the murder of Roy Ichabod Parsley (R.I.P.)

# RIME SCENE DU NUI V SECRET CLUE FOR

WILLIAM B. ŁACKHART

#### **POLICE COPY**

#### DO NOT RELEASE WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION UNDER PENALTY OF LAW

#### **Background Check**

Name: MONICA SOOTHMAN

State Of Origin: New York

**Source:** Department of Corrections

**Depart. of Corr. #:** 00656713

#### Offender Information:

**Est. DOB:** 03/03/1976 **SSN:** 000-00-0000 Sex: Female

Race: WHITE Hair Color: BROWN (dyed) Eye Color: HAZEL

Height: 055 Weight: unknown Skin Color: medium

#### **OFFENSES:**

Case Number: 90003728 Case Type: Civil

Number Counts: 001 Component: 001

**Offense Date:** 02-08-1989 Offense: ACCOMPLICE - MURDER

**Sentence Date:** 05-30-1990 Sentence: 15 years in max. sec. prison

Sentence Suspended: Adjudication Withheld: Unknown

Offense Type: FELONY City, State: NY, NY

Ms. Soothini was a practicing psychic in the city of New York, when she gave a client bogus advice to either "kill his boss" or "be killed" by him. When murder charges were pressed, police planned to arrest Monica but found her apartment empty. She was not present at trial and is currently wanted by the FBI. Any informants should contact their local police station immediately.

May be using aliases:

Madame Starla Soothini, Mrs. Soothsayer, Mona Soothini

#### **COURT ACTIVITY:**

Retrial to assess further charges to take place when Ms. Soothman is found.