

Berringer's Beach - solution

1. Yes, almost certainly.
2. No, after he returned.
3. Someone hid behind the bushes (C) while Berringer dragged his boat up on the beach. The boat marked the beach at (A) indicating that the tide was still mostly in. Berringer therefore had not stayed out at sea long. He beached the boat, then began walking and was pursued by an assailant to (B) where they struggled. Someone was knocked unconscious and then dragged (parallel marks from B to ID) and put into the water at (D). The other person then walked back to the boat, dragged it to the water (E) and set it adrift. This shows that the victim was Berringer, who would have no reason to set his own boat adrift. The assailant then walked away to the west.
4. Yes, by someone who knew he was out in his boat and waited for him to return. The killer waited behind the bushes at (C) and smoked. This leaves out both Berringer and his wife, who were both Mormons (non-smokers). It leaves the only other person who knew Berringer was out in his boat, and might have any reason to kill him, his gardener.

Berringer's gardener, Orville Snow, had been spending a lot of time with Adele while her husband sailed. The time had come, he decided, for a burial at sea.