

Gambler's Throw

by Eustace J. Adams

Chapter 17
HORNETS' NEST

"I've been reading the newspapers, Mr.—but you haven't introduced yourself," said Jerry. "How neglectful of me," apologized the cripple. "I am called Limpy Ashwood."

"Sorry," Jerry shook his head thoughtfully. "That doesn't mean a thing to me. But, as I started to explain, I do read the newspapers and I'm afraid that you've stumbled into a hornet's nest. There are a lot of people in this country who would like to be introduced to Miss Wentworth and One-shot Lucci, right now."

"Then I'm sure you'll understand," murmured Ashwood suavely, "why you may as well settle down to become a member in good standing of our little household."

Jerry grinned ruefully and nodded. Then he patted his dripping clothes suggestively.

"A thousand pardons!" exclaimed the cripple. "Alfred, show Mr. Peabody to his room instantly. We'll complete the introductions at your convenience."

The Gulf of Mexico was an infinitely vast lake of molten silver, shimmering under the cloudless sky. Another hot day was indicated for the slightest whisper of wind rippled the surface of the water. The palms leaned this way and that as though discouraged and weary. Their leaves were dry, brownish at the tips.

No wonder, thought Jerry, these people were unstrung and ready to leap for one another's throats at the flicker of an eyelid. Never, even during those last hectic days at the front when pilots came in from patrol cursing at the tops of their voices, had he known such nervous tension.

All evening, as the "guests" had sat about the living room he had expected to witness a riotous outbreak among the fidgeting, teat-nerved men. Lucci and Mallory, their puffed and bruised faces covered with bandages, regarding each other with malevolent eyes, greedy for an opportunity to finish the struggle of the evening before. Those two strange, silent men, Martin and Williams, gazing steadfastly at Miss Wentworth with expressions in their sombre eyes which caused the flyer to watch them more closely than he did the others. Lucci and Mallory, whenever they may have been before coming to the island, were now savages, knowing it and not caring. But what damage the heat and the unnatural atmosphere of the place had done to Martin and Williams was not so evident. They would bear quiet watching.

That devil, Ashwood, had lounged in his chaise longue, playing upon their nerves as an organist manipulates his banks of keys. A dozen times during the hot, interminable evening, Jerry had tensed his muscles, expecting the victims of the cripple's thrusts to break into a murderous frenzy and run amuck. But always, at the very last instant before an outbreak, Ashwood would smooth the other's ruffled nerves and turn his attention to the next.

Only two of all those who had dwelt in that house for many days seemed unmoved by his verbal efforts to arouse their anger. Hamilton, concentrating upon his everlasting solitaire, answered the cripple's quips carelessly, seeming to regard them as only slightly irritating interruptions to the vastly more important business of placing one card upon another. And Nancy somehow came through the evening unscathed. It was with much regret that he did not cut to the ray. They were kinder, perhaps. At any rate, the girl held her own without great difficulty.

Let their vigilance. This Ashwood was no heavy-lifted moron; he was infinitely more dangerous as an enemy.

Jerry knew that the most practical plan would be to find some way to signal his friends to fly to the nearest town and secure adequate assistance from the authorities. But, being young reckless and headstrong he resolutely pushed the conviction away.

Suddenly he stiffened in alarm. The familiar bark of a powerful motor boat beat into his ears. His throbbing roar mounted as it responded to an advancing throttle until the entire house seemed to vibrate. Then, dying down, it popped and back-fired unevenly.

Jerry's first impulse was to rush to the porch to signal to the silver-winged monoplane. But after the first instant of indecision, he realized that he was listening to Ashwood's amphibian in her hangar at the inlet. He dressed hastily and hurried out into the fragrant morning air just in time to see the odd-shaped plane taxi slowly to the channel and take off toward the south. He stood on the porch, his hands clenching the rail, watching the amphibian's rising flight.

What a fool he had been to underestimate Ashwood's shrewdness and not to know that he would make an effort to check up on his story! If the amphibian continued on her present course for five minutes her crew could not fail to see the monoplane whose bright wings would beam up in the sand like an air marker thoughtfully placed there to draw attention to the spot.

The white-coated steward appeared at Jerry's side and bowed civilly. "Mr. Ashwood's compliments, sir, and will the gentleman kindly join

him at breakfast?" Jerry hesitated. He wished to watch the course of the amphibian. But the steward waited as though he expected the summons to be obeyed immediately, and the pilot nodded reluctantly and entered the house.

In the long, dim dining room, Ashwood awaited him, cool and immaculate in a suit of Chinese pongee. The large table, set with places for two, was covered with napery of magnificent damask.

"Good morning, Mr.—ah—Peabody," smiled the cripple. "It is so good of you to join me. Our other guests will presently have their breakfasts in their rooms and I dislike eating alone."

Jerry acknowledged the greeting absently. He was listening for the faint whisper of the amphibian's engine. Had it stopped suddenly or had it dwindled into silence in the distance?

The soft-footed steward placed an iced grapefruit before him. He found that despite his disquiet of mind, he had not lost his appetite.

"Nice place you have here," he observed politely.

"Isn't it? I congratulate myself upon a happy thought when I purchased this house in sections and had it assembled here after my plans. The guests inhabit the west wing which leads off the living room. My rather large staff uses the east wing and some living quarters over the hangar-boat house. An admirable arrangement."

Jerry grinned whole-heartedly. There was something in the nerve and the imagination of the fellow that was very appealing.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

by Frederic J. Haskin

Q Is it true that many hundreds of dollars' worth of clothing has been donated for the American Olympic team this year? W.S.

A It has been announced that eighteen different firms have donated over \$8,000 worth of clothing to the Olympic finance committee. This is the first year this has been done.

Q Which of the Barrymores is the oldest? E. R. Q.

A Lionel Barrymore is the oldest of the Barrymores. Ethel is next and John is the youngest.

Q How many women pilots are there in the United States? How does the number now compare with that in 1929? F.K.

A Five hundred twelve licensed women pilots are listed by the department of commerce. On January 1, 1929 there were only 34.

Q In how many years has the treasury shown a deficit? T. N.

A Figuring on the official war-air service," admitted Jerry steadily. "Yes,"

"Did you, perchance, know Captain Jerry Calhoun?"

(To be Continued)

ascend the throne a bachelor. Queen Victoria was the last sovereign of Great Britain to remain for many years on the throne without a consort. Her salary was about \$300,000 a year. When her son succeeded as Edward VII, the parliament increased the privy purse to about \$550,000 a year. This was the amount paid to the last ruler with a living consort, William IV, and it was understood that Edward received the raise on the ground that he was married.

Q What does the Indian name Winona mean? L.F.B.

A It is a Sioux word, meaning first-born daughter.

Q Does air mail postage pay the cost of air mail service? H.M.

A For the fiscal year 1932 it is estimated that \$30,000,000 will be spent for the air mail service. The deficit would be approximately 60 per cent of this amount. The revenue received from air mail approximates 50 per cent of the cost.

Q What is the derivation of the name of the dance, Money Musk? E.R.W.

A The term money musk is a derived spelling of "mony musk" which is the name of an old Scottish dance known as the Strathspey which is believed to have originated during the 18th century in the valley or strath of the Spey. "Mony musk" probably came from the town of that name in Scotland. There are many early Scotch tunes called after towns or places. In Scotch "mony" means many and occasionally means great. "Musk" means a confused heap or a term which is synonymous with our modern word for fog. It is very possible that the town is named because of the fogs appearing there. The term "money

musk" as now used refers to the old dance which is similar to the Virginia Reel.

Q Does much fresh air come into a house when the windows and doors are closed? C.C.

A It is estimated that in the average house there is enough air-leakage around windows to be the equivalent of one open window.

Q Have elephant graveyards ever been found in Africa? K.O.

A The many stories about elephant graveyards have never been verified by the actual discovery of such burial places for elephants.

Q Who was the author of "The best of prophets of the future is the past"? W.A.

A Lord Byron.

Q How much is our government spending annually to maintain the Yangtze patrol? L.P.

A It costs approximately \$750,000. This patrol is maintained for the protection of American nationals and business interests and is necessary because the Yangtze river is frequented by bandits and other outlaws.

Who originated the electric display? A. William H. Meadowcroft, associate of Thomas A. Edison, was the originator of the application of electricity to display signs.

CUNDOWN STORIES

THE PARADE STARTS
By MARRY GRAHAM BONNER

At the first sound of the drum people came out of their houses to see the parade.

First came Freddy beating his drum, "d-r-u-m, d-r-u-m, d-r-u-m, d-r-u-m, d-r-u-m, d-r-u-m."

Next came Pauline, Alice, Adelaide, Mattie and Emily dressed very prettily, jumping and cantering as though they were ponies. They neighed every so often.

Then came Betty and Peggy, John and Bill, and as they marched along they shouted out to the onlookers along the street:

"The big show begins in exactly half-an-hour. Come to Riverbank where you will see the most magnificent, the most stupendous, the most wonderful circus to be seen in the world. You will see breath-taking tricks, you will see the girl who climbs a tree and you will think for the life of you, that she is a wild animal rather than a girl."

"Come to see the big show and laugh at the clown—the funniest clown in all the world. Lemonade and peanuts at the big show. All you want."

Dick came next in the parade and now everyone did laugh to see him. He walked as though he might fall over any moment because he was so fat.

Then came the express cart, drawn by Ada. In it were some toy animals, a lion, an elephant, a monkey and a pig, and in the center sat Nip, the fox terrier.

"Bark, Nip," Ada whispered, and Nip obediently barked.

"The wildest animal in captivity," shouted Ada to the crowd.

Just then Nip saw something he thought he would like to chase. Out of the express cart he jumped and Ada couldn't catch him!

Jerry had not sought an opportunity to explain his presence to her. At dinner, he had surprised her studying his face thoughtfully and, meeting her eye, had seen her shake her head ever so slightly, then look away. So he knew that she recognized him and was warning him to make no slip that would betray him. It was with much regret that he gave up hope of drawing her aside for a few moments conversation before Emory and Stevens precipitated him how many guards patrolled the beach, how many machine guns could be expected to open fire upon the airplane and where, perhaps, would be the most likely place for him to start a row to take the defenders' attention away from the approaching monoplane.

He knew, of a certainty, that the extraordinary Ashwood did not believe his ingenious story of being cast away upon the neighboring island. He did not underestimate, in the least, the difficulties before him. Ashwood would be warned by his suspicious visit and would undoubtedly see that his guards did not re-

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

THERE YOU ARE—JAKE—HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY THAT STORE?

Y-I-YI—SAY, BUT THAT IS THE BIGGEST PLACE IN TOWN.

MILLIONS SUCH A STORE IS WORTHY—AND MORE THEY WOULD ASK, EVEN IF THEY WOULD SELL AT ALL.

THEY'LL SELL IT'S NOT GENERALLY KNOWN, BUT IF THEY DON'T GET HELP THIS WEEK THEY'LL CRASH—THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR BUSINESS IN GENERAL—THEY'LL SELL RIGHT IF YOU LIKE THAT STORE WE'LL BUY IT—

LIKE IT? SUCH A PLACE IT IS—WITH SUCH A STORE ANY THING IS POSSIBLE—Y-I—HOW COULD I HELP BUT LIKE IT?

OK—I'LL CALL UP RIGHT AWAY AND HAVE MY OFFICE GET BUSY ON IT.

Y-I-YI—FOR MILLIONS HE BUYS A STORE LIKE IT WAS A BOX OF CIGARS, OR A BAG OF PEANUTS—MAYBE—

THIS IS THE DAY OF HIS BIRTHDAY SURPRISE.

And all of the Barnyard, save Puffy, is "wise."

Invited by Whiz, he goes out for a trot—

A trick so the guests may convene on the lot.

REGLAR FELLERS

LET'S GO OVER AND SEE PUDDINHEAD! HE'S STILL IN BED WITH THE MUMPS!

I WANNA BUY A NAPPA FOR A SICK FREN!

HERE'S A NICE ONE FOR A NICKEL!

HE AINT HALF AS SICK AS THAT!

TOWNSEND ZANDER

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TOWNSEND ZANDER—ALIVE—WHERE HAS HE BEEN ALL THESE YEARS?

WHAT AM I TO DO?

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WHAT WILL TOM SAY IF HE SEES HIM HANGING AROUND HERE?

MUTT AND JEFF

MUTT, IN THIS AD, YOU ADVERTISE YOURSELF AS FORMERLY WITH THE HOUSE OF MORGAN, SUCH CRAZY STATEMENTS WILL GET YOU INTO TROUBLE!

O-YEAR? I WAS AN OFFICE BOY THERE ONCE!

YES—THIS IS MISTER MUTT THE STOCK MARKET TIPSTER. MY DAILY MARKET LETTER COSTS TEN DOLLARS A MONTH AND IT CONTAINS INFORMATION WORTH A FORTUNE TO MY CLIENTS!

MR. MORGAN IS STANDING BY MY SIDE AND THE BULLISH NEWS HE JUST SUPPLIED ME WILL BE IN MY MARKET LETTER TOMORROW! YOU'LL SUBSCRIBE FOR A MONTH? FINE. JUST MAIL ME A CERTIFIED CHECK!

KID, HERE'S TEN PER CENT COMMISSION FOR HELPING ME LAND THAT NEW CLIENT!

THERE GOES THE DIAMOND!

I HEARD THEY ARE AUCTIONEERS THEY SENT FOR A PLANE BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO BE IN MANILA IN A HURRY.

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ACROSS

1. Birds with the palm
2. Discharges
3. Profound
4. Outdoor game
5. Feminine name
6. Unoccupied
7. Seed covering
8. Prepare for use again
9. Gripping device
10. Syrian demigods
11. Rain gauge
12. Portals
13. And not
14. Tropical American tree
15. Angry
16. First wash
17. Obliterate
18. Southern consolation
19. Many-sided figure
20. Permanent
21. Before
22. Pertaining to South
23. American mountains
24. Toward the sheltered side
25. Immerse again
26. Why
27. Meats

Solution of Yesterday's Puzzle

STINT SCARE
HAMS ARIES RA
ATE SCARE POI
ME STEPS HORN
EDITORS BOOST
RUNS SEAL
ALONE SPARSER
BUNT WEEDY DO
ANY BEANS HIS
TAP PAIRS PILE
ECLAIR ELUDES
YELLS ROPES

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WELL TOM, THERE GOES YOUR CROOK WITH TH' DIAMOND! WITH AGE YOU'LL DO IT!

DOWN

1. Minors
2. Sneeze
3. Assault on the eyes and hills of birds
4. Marriage to more than one wife at the same time
5. Primary
6. Anger
7. Wife of a general
8. Surtress
9. Thread
10. Turn aside
11. Kind of publication
12. Other
13. Equal
14. Uncoiled
15. Jeweler
16. Corrects
17. Writing material
18. Wrathful
19. Blunched
20. Procrastination
21. What the train runs on
22. Wild buffalo
23. Boy attendant
24. Put on
25. Grow brown
26. One who starts open-mouthed
27. Just
28. Jubilant state
29. Kind of charge
30. Squeeze
31. David Copperfield's first wife
32. Metal
33. Long narrow board
34. Russian island
35. Auction
36. Device to be down in the air
37. To be Latin
38. Grow firm

TAILSPIN TOMMY

EARLY THIRTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE TOMMY AND SKEETER HAD THEIR BATTLE ON DECK WITH THE DANGEROUS THIEVES. THE WEATHER WAS CLEAR AND EVERYBODY ON GARRIS IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER AT MANILA, WHERE IT IS SCHEDULED TO DOK IN TEN HOURS. PEANUTS, TOMMY AND SKEETER ARE TRYING TO FIND THE CAPTAIN TO TELL HIM SOME STARTLING NEWS...

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LET'S GO OVER AND SEE PUDDINHEAD! HE'S STILL IN BED WITH THE MUMPS!

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MUTT AND JEFF

MUTT, IN THIS AD, YOU ADVERTISE YOURSELF AS FORMERLY WITH THE HOUSE OF MORGAN, SUCH CRAZY STATEMENTS WILL GET YOU INTO TROUBLE!

O-YEAR? I WAS AN OFFICE BOY THERE ONCE!

YES—THIS IS MISTER MUTT THE STOCK MARKET TIPSTER. MY DAILY MARKET LETTER COSTS TEN DOLLARS A MONTH AND IT CONTAINS INFORMATION WORTH A FORTUNE TO MY CLIENTS!

MR. MORGAN IS STANDING BY MY SIDE AND THE BULLISH NEWS HE JUST SUPPLIED ME WILL BE IN MY MARKET LETTER TOMORROW! YOU'LL SUBSCRIBE FOR A MONTH? FINE. JUST MAIL ME A CERTIFIED CHECK!

KID, HERE'S TEN PER CENT COMMISSION FOR HELPING ME LAND THAT NEW CLIENT!

TOWNSEND ZANDER

TOWNSEND ZANDER—NOW HE HAS CHANGED SINCE HENRIETTA LAST SAW HIM—MANY, MANY—OH, SO MANY YEARS AGO—WHEN IN A FIT OF PASSION HE LEFT HER—

SINCE THEN NO WORD HAS EVER COME FROM HIM—SHE HAS HAD MANY ADMIRERS—UNTIL AT LAST—TOM CARR—APPEARED ON THE SCENE—HER HEART WENT ALL TO HIM IMMEDIATELY—

TOWNSEND ZANDER—ALIVE—WHERE HAS HE BEEN ALL THESE YEARS?

WHAT AM I TO DO?

SHE SAW IN THE FUTURE WHAT HER HEART HAD ALWAYS CRAVED—HOME—HEAVEN—HAPPINESS—AND SHE SAW IN TOM THE MAN SHE LEARNED TO ADORE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD—ALL THAT SHE HAD EVER ADMIRER IN A MAN—SHE GAVE UP BIM GUMP AND HIS MILLIONS TO BECOME THE WIFE OF TOM—

SHE MARRIED HIM AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS PENNILESS AND NOW—IN HER HAPPIEST HOUR—OUT OF THE DEAD PAST—COMES THIS MOCKERY OF A MAN TO TORMENT HER—TOWNSEND ZANDER—HER FIRST HUSBAND WHOM SHE THOUGHT DEAD YEARS AND YEARS AGO—

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THERE GOES THE DIAMOND!