

Gambler's Throw

by Eustace L. Adams.

SYNOPSIS: Jerry Calhoun and Stevens are trying to end an airplane chase by attacking the hydroplane in which they are carrying off Jerry's wife, Nancy. The rest of the same is in rebellion against its leader, Ashwood, and is attacking him and the person he is holding for ransom.

Chapter 35

"HAPPY LANDINGS"

The amphibian appeared to float up to meet them.

Jerry, leaning forward in his seat, watched the gangster ship with half-closed eyes. He must miss that upper wing by inches only. The tracer bullets from below were sweeping the monoplane from wing tip to wing tip as Luc's gunner kept his finger clamped tight on his trigger.

Down, down. Funny, how long such a short dive could take! The tracer bullets annoyed him. They seemed to stretch like taut strings between his own eyes and the other fellow's gun. He wondered vaguely why he hadn't been riddled with lead. The luminous dial of the altimeter suddenly disappeared from the instrument board. Something else, too, had disintegrated as the gangster's bullets crashed through the panel. He couldn't stop to see what it was. No time for anything but to dive as close to that upper wing as he could. Must give good old Steve a fair target. Then he became aware of a new sound, a confused, fac-tac-lac as of a steel trivet at work. It was Steve. Attaboy, Steve.

The long, upper wing of the amphibian seemed to leap up at the bow of the plunging monoplane. Jerry pulled back desperately, won-

dering if he had waited too long. As the nose lifted he listened for the crash that would mean the end of everything. Steve was straightening up, pulling his gun barrel out of the panel. Jerry's breath whistled between his tight shut teeth. They were clear! Missed a collision by fractions of an inch. "Get it!" he demanded. "I dunno. Usually do." It was all of a night's work to the detective.

The monoplane was flying level again. Jerry banked hard over to return to the attack. The dark bulk of the mainland, Jerry guessed, the other ship became visible. The pilot slapped his companion on the back. "Look!" he shouted, "they're gliding!"

The amphibian, her exhausts streaming flames, was gliding in a long, thin quarter-turn, her pilot obviously trying to reach the sandy beach of the mainland. Jerry measured the distance with his eyes. Yes, they might make it. He must beat them to it. With his own engine full on, he too, swung toward shore in a terrific power dive, hoping against hope that he would find the beach suitable for a landing.

Jerry dove past the slowly-gliding ship. With his own mighty engine wide open the monoplane was covering two feet to the amphibian's one. Down, down, with the wind whistling through the struts, the entire fabric vibrating to the banshee shriek of the motor. There was no time to drag the beach to find out whether the sand was hard or soft. It didn't matter. He closed the throttle and pivoted the plane around on her wing tip. As the fat balloon tires struck the sand, the heavy ship lurched and faltered. Jerry braced himself, thinking that she was about to dig in and turn over. Then she rolled heavily to a stop.

Jerry leaped to the sand before Stevens had opened the door on the other side. The amphibian had just landed on the water, 40 or 50 feet from shore and was now drifting in toward the beach under the force of momentum of its glide. With engine dead and its crew silent it looked like a black ghost ship in the night.

Jerry, in a cold sweat of impatience could not wait for her to reach the beach. He waded out into the dark water, his hands itching to wrap themselves around Luc's throat.

"One shot out of that gun," came Stevens' calm voice from the beach, "and I'll give you the works."

There was no reply. The plane, its forward wing almost lost, was inching steadily toward the shore. The water was now up to Jerry's waist.

"Throw your machine-gun overboard," the detective's voice carried far across the still water. "I want to hear it splash."

Still that eerie silence hung over everything. Jerry felt a tingle run through every nerve end. The air seemed full of static electricity, like the breathless moment between a sharp flash of lightning and the resultant clap of thunder. He pushed ahead through the water then, all restraints gone, plunged forward and began to swim with a powerful crawl stroke. Somewhere in that drifting black ship was Nancy. He had told her Luc should not have her. Once he put his two hands on that guy nothing in the world could break his hold. A dozen more feet and he'd be able to clamber aboard. They had machine guns and automatics, but he did not care.

A vivid sheet of flame from the amphibian's bow split the darkness over his head. It was instantly reflected in a stabbing fire from the shore. The air seemed filled with twanging bullets and the sound of cracking wood. The reverberations

from the machine gun fire died away into silence, utter and absolute.

Jerry's groping hand found a wet strand. He jerked himself out of the water and scrambled up the slippery side of the drifting plane. He saw a dripping foot over the cockpit wall. There was only one dark face there. He reached for it with clutching hands. "I give up!" the man screamed. "It was not Luc's voice."

His fingers met at the man's throat. His thumbs clamped down, pressing deep into yielding flesh. The man staggered back. Jerry stepped after him, stumbled on something soft and lost his grip. There was a heavy splash. The other man had jumped overboard. Jerry could hear the sound of his strokes as he swam toward shore. Fortunately Jerry looked for Luc. He heard Stevens' voice. "Where's Luc?"

The swimming man answered. "On the floor of the cockpit, him and Sam. You got 'em both."

"Another \$150,000 shot to hell," mourned Stevens. "Money goes awful quick around here."

Jerry clattered down the two steps into the darkness of the commanding compartment within the fuselage.

"Is that you, Jerry?" Nancy's voice was brave. "Yes," he said briefly, choking back the rush of words that came to his lips. What use to try to keep his thoughts away from her, to try to ignore her very existence? He had loved her ever since he had first looked into her eyes, candid and level as a boy's, back there on the Merrick road. He clenched his teeth to prevent himself from telling her while she waited so silently for him to find her there in the

inky darkness. His wife! That spoiled it all, for had he not promised to have it annulled? How could he tell her that he loved her now, when her heart would be warm with gratitude toward him? And when they were back in New York she would be Nancy Wentworth, not the helpless, frightened little girl of the tropics, but the self-reliant, light-hearted musical comedy star.

His groping hands touched hers. They were icy cold and clutched his own convulsively. "Nancy," he whispered, "are you all right?"

There was a moment of silence. "Yes, Jerry," she replied calmly. "Except that my ankles are bound and I am tied to this seat."

His skillful hands untied the knots and unsnapped the safety buckle. He could feel her breath on his cheek as he bent over her to help her to her feet. She would never know the struggle he was making to keep himself from seizing her in his arms and smothering that glorious red mouth with his kisses. His wife! What a joke.

"What are you laughing at?" she demanded. "I'm not laughing," he snapped shortly. "Let's get ashore."

Emily fingered his trigger impatiently as he watched men scuttle from the shelter of one palm to that of the next, always working closer and closer to the house. Dr. Titherington, looking absurdly undignified, crept across the littered floor of the living room and placed a tall glass beside the elbow of each of the defenders.

"Happy landings, Ashie," Emily nodded, catching the cripple's eye. Ashwood's face was transformed. No longer mocking and cynical, it

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS

Frederic J. Haskin

Q. Is the sax used in a symphony orchestra? W. E. M.

A. The saxophone is not generally employed in a symphony orchestra, although this instrument may be included to interpret modern compositions.

Q. When was the first Wrigley marathon swim held? F. W.

A. In 1925.

Q. How many feet of water did "Mark Twain" indicate? S. O.

A. It is a leadman's call signifying two fathoms or 12 feet.

Q. How old are the queer trees in front of Carvel Hall at Annapolis, Md.? S. G.

A. The trees on the front terrace of Carvel Hall are between 250 and 300 years old. They are Atlantans and were wiped clear of its hard lines and seeded 20 years younger.

"Cherio, old top, here's to the next war!" Ashwood drank deep. Emily stared over the barricade. The attackers were making their way forward with infinite caution, taking advantage of every tree trunk, every clump of palmetto and sawgrass.

trees, the Chinese Tree of Heaven. No one seems to know how they happened to be planted on the front terrace of Carvel Hall. They were brought from China in a sailing ship considerably over 200 years ago. The house in front of which they stand is the Prince George Street entrance of Carvel Hall Hotel. It was built in 1784 by William Paca, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Third Governor of Maryland.

Q. Where was Adelina Patti born? B. B. B.

A. She was born of Italian parentage in Madrid, Spain, where her parents were singing, in 1843.

Q. How soon after the Revolutionary War did foreign countries recognize the United States? P. M. P.

A. On February 6, 1778, signatures were affixed to a treaty of commerce and a treaty of amity and alliance between France and the United States. The definitive treaty between the United States and England was signed at the end of 1783. Although Frederick the Great wrote Franklin that he probably would soon follow France in recognizing the United States in 1778, no recognition was extended until about

1786. A treaty of Peace and Commerce was signed with the Netherlands in September, 1785. A Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed by Morocco in January, 1787. A treaty had been signed with Sweden in April, 1783. Russia did not recognize the new country or send a diplomatic representative until 1809.

Q. What happened to the Louisiana lottery after it was made illegal in that state? A. L.

A. Its directors erected a fine building in Puerto Cortes and held drawings there. The results were transmitted from Honduras to New Orleans by specially chartered fast steamers. The building is now the postoffice of Puerto Cortes.

Q. Does a compass change when it is taken across the equator? H. N. S.

A. Crossing the equator does not affect the compass. The north-seeking end of the needle continues to point in the direction of the north magnetic pole, and the south-seeking end in the direction of the south magnetic pole.

Q. For how long a time has Stefanovsky lived on a meat diet? J. K.

A. He has lived four hundred days at a time, without tasting vegetable food.

Q. What part of the world was the last to be occupied by man? W. P.

A. Polynesia was probably the last habitable area to be occupied. The Polynesians, although of similar features, language, customs, religion, and traditions, are not a pure race. They are supposed to be mainly of Aryan origin, with infusions of other bloods, and to have come from Asia by way of the Malay peninsula and Java, and thence from island to island by various routes in their migrations eastward.

northward, and southward, and to have reached Hawaii, probably from Samoa, about A. D. 500.

Q. Are college entrance requirements all practically the same? S. F.

A. The fact that thirty-six different types of college entrance requirements are now in vogue is a finger-pointing toward the fact that the colleges and universities are gradually changing their methods of admitting students in the light of new educational research evidence.

Q. What is camel coal? D. L.

A. It is a grade of bituminous coal believed to have originated from materials different from those ordinarily termed bituminous coal. It is characterized by its high percentage of volatile matter and its burning readily with a long flame. Camel coal is used in the manufacture of illuminating gas and as a domestic fuel for open grate fires. It is also used for steam production like ordinary bituminous coal.

Q. What sized turkeys are most marketable? T. M.

A. The 8 to 12 pound turkeys are in greatest demand. Families are smaller and turkey is no longer merely a "holiday" bird. There is a steady demand all seasons.

SUNDOWN STORIES

By MARY GRAHAM BONNER

The boys decided they would not build a fire until time to toast the marshmallows because it was very hot weather.

Your egg sandwiches are delicious," Betty told Ada, and Ada replied by saying, "Well, I never ate anything so good as the marmalade sandwiches."

"These chicken sandwiches just hit the spot!" John exclaimed. "But it's a good thing you remembered the salt, Freddy. Chicken doesn't taste a bit good without salt."

"I certainly like bananas," Freddy said as he took another. "You should really eat sandwiches first," Emily said. "You'll have your appetite completely destroyed if you eat dessert first of all."

"Oh, not I," said Freddy. "I have too good an appetite for that."

"Isn't it wonderful the way you feel like eating out-of-doors," Ada remarked. "I don't feel nearly so hungry when I'm home, and I hate eggs at home but I love them on a picnic."

"I can't tell you how many sandwiches I've eaten," Betty said, "and now I'm ready for a peach. Don't they look good! Oh, how lovely and juicy it is," she added as she took her first bite of the peach.

"They ate until almost everything was gone. One banana and one peach and one piece of bread and butter were left over. Otherwise everything was eaten."

As John poured the ginger ale the sticks were chosen for roasting the marshmallows and then the fire was lighted. Everyone in turn had a toasted marshmallow, then a second one, then a third one, and one or two had one or two more!

"I've never eaten so much in all my life," said one after the other. "Oh, that's what makes a picnic a picnic—to eat lots and lots and lots," said Freddy happily.

HER MIND MADE UP

THERE GOES TOMMY, GUY! SHE'S AROUND! WONDER WHAT'S ON HER MIND NOW—SHE'S BEEN ACTING SORTA FUNNY LATELY.

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE

THAT LITTLE PEST—EVERY TIME I LOOK AROUND, I CATCH HER STARING AT ME—SOME TIMES I THINK SHE TRIES TO READ MY MIND—

REG'LAR FELLERS

WHICH WAY TO THE STATION, BOY?

THE GUMPS

THAT MAID—WHAT ON EARTH AM I GOING TO DO WITH HER? LOOK—MY BOTTLE OF PERFUME, BROKEN IN A MILLION PIECES—SHE BREAKS EVERYTHING SHE TOUCHES—

MUTT AND JEFF

YES SUH, MISTAH JEFF, I'VE A CHANGED MAN! NO MORE CRAP-SHOOTIN'—NO MORE FIGHTIN'—NO MORE DRINKIN'—NO MORE NUTTIN'. ALL TENDRATIONS TO WORKS—DOIN' HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME—THANKS TO MY NEW WIFE!

TALESPIN TOMMY

I'VE BEEN WALKIN' ON EGGS EVER SINCE I HEARD THAT HINDU WAS IN NEW YORK.

SKETER SENSES TROUBLE

I WANT YOU BOYS TO HOP OFF FOR NEW YORK RIGHT AWAY—WALTON'S SICK AND YOU'LL HAVE TO FEED THAT FOKKER BACK!

ACROSS

1. Threads that run lengthwise of a fabric

5. Hard fat in beef and mutton

9. Go down

12. Always

13. To an inner point

14. Vehicle on wheels

15. Remove from high position

17. Place before

18. Last Greek letter

21. Covered with partially burned carbon

22. Two

23. Pinal

24. Pronoun

25. Devoutness

26. Syllable used in musical refrains

31. Mineral

32. Type measure

34. Those who acquire by labor

36. Alternative

37. Snow runner

41. Kind of pastry

42. Order

44. Mother

45. Stupid animal

46. Having tools

47. Lovers' flavor

52. That which remains after a tree is cut down

54. Wears away

55. Reins

56. City in Germany

57. Prince of Italian family

62. Father of the modern school of thought

64. Long joint

66. Lively dance

DOWN

1. Merry

2. Hat

3. Rest

4. Further

5. Believement

6. Negative

7. Greek letter

8. Spinning toys

9. Lay down

10. Lay open

11. Help

12. Polite

13. Dose

14. Body of military troops

15. Writing table

16. Aloft

17. Male child

18. Female

19. Abhor

20. Grandchild

21. Scotch

7. Teo	24. Mother	63. Father of the modern school of engraving	77. Run rapidly
8. Pinal	25. Stupid animal	64. Leg joint	78. Lay open
9. Pronoun	26. Hewing tools	65. Lively dance	79. Lay open
10. Devoutness	27. Poursuing flavor		80. Heap
22. Stylable used in musical refrains	28. That which remains after a tree is cut down		81. Pebble
23. Mineral spring	29. Wears away		82. Oars
24. Type measure	30. Resist		83. Body of military troops
25. Those who acquire by labor	31. City in Germany		84. Writing table
26. Alternative	32. Erlong		85. Soft
27. Snow runner	33. Princes Italian family		86. Male child
28. Kind of poetry			87. Female salut:
29. Ode			88. abbr.
			89. Tallest fish
			90. Grandchild: Scotch

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