

than tell the truth of the episode home. which would clear him but cast another friend in a bad light, he stands trial and is sentenced to a long term in prison. The governor of the state. Eddie puzzled resentfully as he at old friend of Eddic's father, be drove home. As all of Scottdale had, lieves him innocent and pardons him Patsy was condemning him without a

ter, who has smashed his machine in. the impudent trespassing on their proto another car, killing its lone occu- perty and the purchase of the taxpant, a woman. Forbes' companien title rather absolved him from obligaand Libbey quit the scene hurridly, tion toward the man who had been leaving the former alone to face a with him the night of the accident. constable who reasons that Eddie, He'd seen: perhaps he might tell with the scent of whiskey about him Patsy Jane, after all. must be connected in some way with He filled in the suspenseful week in the accident. Accordingly Forbes is cutting fence-posts and re-stringing

agrees that public sentiment runs too rural carrier rad rattled along the high against him. Accordingly they trail in his little car. But the govermigrate up north to some land that nor did not write. has been in the family for years. Settled in their log cabin

Sealman makes a generous offer Finally, at five o'clock, it came: which is refused....Eddie thinking the land must have some value unknown until Christmas. Duff, secretary, to him to warrant his neighbor's interest. Things do not go well, Eddie and drove to the garage. "They say fails to get work and succumbs to his a man may be down, but he's never old yearning by falling in with a out," he thought. "Well, here's where being shanghaied to Chicago. Upon tendant he said briefly: "Fill her up." bootlegger's gang, getting drunk and his return he discovers that Pat has left him and will not return until he

kisses him-and is seen by Patsy who around the corner. fresh tire marks on his property.

of them the youth who deserted him weak places unerringly. Little streams the night of the truck accident are played upon him and soaked through carting away the soil from a mound, his clothing. His hands were stiff He stops them, whips the young cow- with cold. An endless succession of ard and gets the address on a bag chuckholes developed, through which they have used. At Long Portage he the car jolted uncomfortably. learns there is only three hundred and Perhaps he would have been so fifty dollars instead of eight hundred responsive to the miserable weather

THE LEADING CHARACTERS - for his first year's taxes, which would Edison Forbes, a young resident of enable him to pay, but at the bank he Scottdale with an inherent craving also discovers that a check he gave for liquor, is held for the death of a Scalman for five dollars for a pig has ed to every likely person for the loan woman who has been killed by a boot- been raised to five hundred, completelegging truck. dreumstantial evi- ly wiping him out. Then he tries to dence points to Forbes and rather see Patsy, but learns that she is not at

> CHAPTER XXI. Unwelcome Visitors

shortly after his arrival at the jail, hearing, on circumstantial evidence, only the most discouraging. Scoots Libbey, a worthless charge. Well, it couldn't be helped. However,

wire about the land. He hurried to Patsy Jane, Eddie's pretty wife, the mail-box each forenoon after the

The eighth day he could stand it no longer. When the carrier had failed Isaih Sealman, a shifty neighbor who to stop at the box, Eddie drove into is anxious to buy their land. Eddie town and wired Governor Albright. He not bear the looks which would be learns that the back taxes total over spent the afternoon in wandering e'ght hundred dollars and must by about town, returning at half-hourly paid in five months to avert forfeiture, intervals to inquire for a message.

"Sorry, but Governor is in Europe

He summoned a smile to his face I test the theory." To the garage at-

ing the money at Scottdale. He could have appealed to Nance Encell, but has quit drinking. This he determines that was impossible. Patsy Jane would to do. He secures work on a nearby have to know where the money came ranch, run by Davenant, and after from. She would never accept her many temptations at last beats his home at Nance's hands. Further-more, enemy, John Barleycorn. All this to borrow from Nance would confirm time he is slowly earning money but every mean suspicion. N realizes that when the tax is due he or lose without that.

can't possibly have enough. Seal-He bought fod and headed south. man renews his offer and is again re- It was his intention to drive all night and as much of the next day as might Nance Encelf, his former sweetheart be necessary to reach Scottdale. For calls, finds him alone, offers to pa; the time was getting preciously short. the deficit but is rebuffed. Then Nance The first of September was but just

had called to attempt a reconciliation It had begun to rain at noon of the with her husband. Pat leaves without 31st day of August. Autumn comes Broken- early in northern Michigan, and ther hearted, Eddie tried harder than ever was the chill of leafless, desolate landto earn the money and one morning scapes over which the wind may prowl early while berry picking, notices untrammeled, in the saturated air. The top of Eddie's car was in bad con-Eddie discovers that two men, one dition. The spears of rain found the

had his mission been successful. He had trampled on his pride and appealhim.

Some would have been willing to advance the money. But they feared the bleak uisfavor of their neighbors. The barrens had been a soundingboard, apparently, and outstanding incidents of his life there echoed in the town's ears. All favorable angles had been eliminated. Scottdale heard

They knew of his drinking-bouts. But they didn't know that he had and his thrashing of the other tres- table. passer were described as drunken something mysterious and criminal.

It was dark when he approached Long Portage. He was shivering violently from cold and rain. He was turned on him in either of the town's restaurants. His telegraphic appeal to the governor for funds and the reply were public property by now. There were too many lounging in and out of the railroad office who could see the message on the open file, even were the agent silent and discreet-which he was not.

Long Portage knew his attempts to get money there had failed. It would true. But birdshot will serve admirread in his face that his journey to ably at three feet. the south had been a failure, also. So he squashed through the mud of filthy crooks! Get, out of herethe uneven main street and left the quick-" yellow lights in the store building

but a pair of flery eyes stared upon sonified. A false nove would mean was hours overdue. him from a bend in the road, and as the discharge of the shotgun, and two the car rushed past, he could see the dead men. They had no desire to mild and shaggy head of a bear, who speculate as to who might be spared. was standing on his hind legs in a Keeping them covered, Eddie steppatch of blackberries.

dows of his cabin. He shut off the front door. They saw his intention. power and brought the car to a scop some distance away. The thought of his voice between a whine and a snarl, the motor-tramp came to his mind don't throw them gats away." and he went forward cautiously to His answer was to hurl the pistols, reconnoiter. He crept stoopingly, one by one, out into the darkness, and keeping out of range of the windows Culley spoke again: "What's the big until he could peer into one of them idea, anyway? You claim to be a the etown's ears. All favorable angles from the corner. Two small panes friendhad been broken out so that the unbidden guests might unloose the sash- nearest. Eddle thrust the gun against bolts. After a single glance he went his flabby stomach so that the twin

The three occupants of the cabin, 'Shut up and get out!" he commanded. conquered liquor. They had heard of chewing tobacco. as the brown lights, and thundered away. They his enforced trip to Chicago. They splotches where he had spa; on the hurled back curses and threats from rolled under their tongues the deli- floor showed. The others were smok a safe distance. Eddie smiled into the clous morsel that Patsy had left him, ing. There was a blazing fire in the darkness after them before turning and assured that the separation was fireplace. And a tall black bottle back to the house. final. His fight to oust the motortramp partly full, stood in the center of the "I wanted them to think I was a

quarrelsomeness. Even his dismissal ing. Caps and mackinaws were thrown the shock of finding out wasn't less by Davenant had been distorted into on one of the bunks. Across them lay unkind tonight than it would have large calibre automatic.

-"Hello, kid!" greeted Culley, jovivery hungry. But he felt he could ally. "Didn't find you home, so we

came in." "So I see," returned Eddie.

"This rain'll hold up the ship may-Oscar, "so we thought we'd eat under

broken. He snatched a shotgun from were loaded only with birdshot, it is men making up the expedition.

"You hogs!" he growled. "You lazy

Men who live by violence are usefully educated. They know when an Somehow, it seemed friendly out inadversary is bluffing and when he is the barrens, though the night was dangerous. They have the courage of

ing track was firm and free from they bow to the dangerous man. So

ped back until he secured the belts. When the last ridge had been sur- He removed the pistols with one hand mounted he gave a start of surprise. and threw the belts on the floor. A light was shining from the win- Backing again, he pulled open the

"Aw, say, kid," remonstrated Culley,

The bulky guard happened to be to the back door and thrust it open. muzzel dented deeply the soft tissue.

Jake, Culley and Oscar, looked up in Culley obeyed, carrying his coat and surprise. They were quite at their belt with him. Eddie shepherded. ease, as much so as in their own them along the path. He kept his homes, or a stable. They had eaten a flashlight spraying on the trio to prebountiful meal from his provisions, as vent a surprise attack. The boozethe disordered table showed. A plate truck, headed north, stood by the side pad been broken, and the pieces care- of the road. They clambered into the lessly kicked aside. Now Culley was seat, after Oscar had kindled the

simp and an easy mark till something They had removed their outer cloth- fell on them," he mused. "But I guess three belts to which were attached been later. Now for a bite to eat. holsters, each holster contained a And then it's a case of back to town again."

> CHAPTER XXII. At the Office

Eight trucks, bull-nosed and in mensely powerful, stood humped under their tarpaukns, like strange prebe till noon tomorrow," volunteered historic animals. Their guards and drivers walked restlessly up and cover. Good grub you got here." He down or huddled under protecting canbegan indolently to roll a cigarette. vas aprons. Three skiffs floated by the Eddie's self-control was suddenly dock in the bootleggers' cove. There was an attitude of expectancy and its pegs over the door. The barrels impatient waiting over the score of

> It was well past noon of the first of September. Yesterday's rain persisted, although the large drops had now dissolved into many smaller ones, and a thick white mist threw a blanket

black. The rain whispered companion their careers, and they will take ruth over them. It was impossible to see ably among the jackpines. The twist- less steps against the bluffer. But farther than a short distance. Bad weather, fog and a high sea had destanding water. He saw no person the trio rose. Here was danger per- layed the Canadian rum-runner. She

As the men stamped their feet and (Continued on Page, 6)

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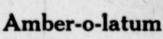
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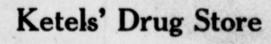


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