

Gambler's Throw

by Eustace L. Adams.

SYNOPSIS: A new brand of kidnapping is introduced by a mysterious gang, who abduct Nancy Wentworth, a popular musical comedy star. Lucci, a notorious gangster, and four wealthy cousins meet. Relatives of the kidnaped persons are informed that they must pay "horrid money" to insure the prisoners' safety. Jerry Coulson, airplane pilot, who was with Nancy when she was carried away, his friend Emory Buttle and Stevens, a detective, pick up the trail of the gang when the money is collected and follow the kidnapers' hydroplanes in their own airplane. The captives find themselves in some tropical isles, where the uncertainty and heat undermine their nerves. The leader of the gang, Ashwood, a cultured man who is very lame, watches their strained emotions. Lucci and Mallory, a millionaire stockbroker, in rivalry over Nancy, begin to quarrel. Instigated by Ashwood they start fighting what Nancy believes to be a "battle to the death."

Chapter 13
A FIGURE IN GANGDOM

Lucci and Mallory went down in a reverberating crash, the gangster clinging to his adversary's throat like a bull terrier to a bone. Mallory's knees came up in a spasm of pain. His face became mottled, his jade green eyes protruded like those of a gargoyle. His hands beat ineffectually against Lucci's rigid arms as the latter's thumbs pressed down into his windpipe. His arms and legs began to

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sutter, rapidly losing strength as the life-giving air was denied his labored lungs.

Then, suddenly, he became limp. Lucci held on, oblivious to all the world except that inhuman face before his eyes.

"That's enough!" Ashwood's voice snapped through the silent room like a pistol shot. Lucci held on. The cripple hobbled across the floor with amazing speed. His face still bore an expression of disinterested enjoyment. A blue-black streak cut a half circle through the air as the butt of his heavy automatic crashed down on Lucci's head. Without a sigh or groan, the intent, rigid figure slumped down like a bundle of old clothes tossed across the insensible form of his enemy.

Ashwood turned away negligently, whistled a shrill, birdlike note and said:

"Put them to bed."

Four burly guards who had materialized out of nowhere at all picked up the two unconscious men and bore them from the room. Then, for the first time in her life, Nancy Wentworth fainted.

The long porch, under the caress of a faint morning trade wind, was almost endurable.

Ashwood lounged in a deck chair, smoking a cigarette and idly gazing over the turquoise water toward the tiny segment of horizon between two islands to the westward. A copy of "Soldiers of Fortune" lay open but forgotten on his knees. If he noticed the quiet man on the beach who lounged near a machine-gun tripod, he was not interested.

Nancy, very alluring in a simple dress of brown organdy, appeared at the door. Her golden hair seemed to catch all the light in that shady corner of the porch. She saw Ashwood and hesitated. The cripple snapped out of his abstraction, rose with surprising grace and bowed.

"Good morning, Miss Wentworth. There's a delightful breeze. Won't you join me?"

She looked at him in frank curiosity, then took the chair he had indicated.

"I am simply bursting with conceit," he said, easing himself into his chair. "That organdy dress is perfect. The arrogant saleslady tried to tell me I should have chosen

green. She was wrong. I knew it then, and I'm positive of it now. You are very beautiful, Miss Wentworth."

"Do you mean to tell me," she demanded, "that you picked out the wardrobe I found in my closet?"

"I admit it with becoming blushes. I tottered from one end of Fifth avenue to another, simply overwhelmed the salespeople with my snoring taste."

"What a strange person you are, Mr. Ashwood," she observed meditatively.

There was a half-mocking light in his eyes as he met her somber gaze.

"How penetrating!" he murmured.

She flushed at her own cliché. He did not push his advantage, but lay back in his chair and resumed his indolent watch over sea and sky.

"I can't imagine the same man enjoying shopping for feminine apparel one day and conducting a kidnaping expedition the next." She was determined to draw him out.

He interested her, this frail man who looked and spoke like a scholarly sophisticate despite the obvious fact that he was a desperate criminal. "Mr. Lucci tells me that you are one of the greatest figures in gangdom."

"Mr. Lucci is too flattering," he

OREGON BUILDING CONGRESS BORN

EUGENE, Ore., July 25.—(AP)—Organization of a permanent Oregon building congress was effected here Saturday at a meeting of representatives of building congresses in various cities of the state. The organization is an outgrowth of the building congress organized in Portland 12 years ago.

Control of the new organization was vested in a board of presidents. The following committee was named to prepare a constitution: J. O. Bailey, C. C. Weideman, and P. H. Murphy, all of Portland; Frank Marshall, Salem.

E. M. Drew, of Eugene, was elected temporary president. Permanent officers will be elected at a meeting to be called by Drew.

Portland—Robin Hood Inn, East 33rd and Broadway, being remodeled.

OREGON HIGHWAY SHARE \$2,001,740

WASHINGTON, July 25.—(AP)—Secretary Hyde today announced apportionment to the states of the \$120,000,000 provided under the relief bill for federal aid highway work.

These funds may be used by states

Deaf Man Killed By Bandit Bullets

LOS ANGELES, July 25.—(AP)—Deaf and unable to hear a command of "Stick 'em up," W. J. Kirkpatrick, 70, a visitor to the Olympic Games, was shot and killed today

Dairy Contract Held Violated

HILLSBORO, Ore., July 25.—(AP)—Seeking an injunction to restrain David Storey of Forest Grove from selling his milk to a Vetch & Sons creamery of Portland, the Dairy Cooperative association today filed suit against Storey, J. H. Bates, W. F. Hollins and Vetch & Sons.

Seattle Reduces Employes Wages

SEATTLE, July 25.—(AP)—The new ordinance setting up a 40-hour five-day week for the majority of city employes and providing pay cuts was signed today by Mayor John F. Dore, and within a short time banks of the city announced they would cash city salary warrants to be issued on Monday.

Roseburg—New equipment installed in recently remodeled Grand case.

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Only Room For Two!



S'MATTER POP—Now The Kid Knows Why He's Got That Face



BOUND TO WIN—The Message



THE NEBBS—News from Home



MUTT AND JEFF—Very Much Muttsy



BRINGING UP FATHER



SAVINGS AND LOAN FIRMS ARE SOUND

PORTLAND, Ore., July 25.—(AP)—Figures released here today by R. A. Schramm, president of the Oregon League of Savings and Loan and secretary of the Equitable Savings and Loan association of Portland, said 23 savings and loan associations operating in Oregon paid dividends of more than \$1,000,000 to shareholders during the 12 months ending June 30.

"The record is a high testimonial to the method of operation of the savings and loan association of Oregon and proves the soundness of investment in homes," he said.

By—General improvements made to local water works.

DONAUGH LEADS OREGON DEMOS

PORTLAND, Ore., July 25.—(AP)—Carl C. Donaugh was re-elected chairman of the Democratic state committee at a harmonious organization meeting here Saturday.

Thirty-three of the 36 counties in the state were represented. Twenty-two state committee members appeared in person and 11 had proxies.

Jack Bunnerville was re-elected secretary, Mrs. Rosemary Schneck, of Lincoln county, Mrs. Nannie Wood Honeyman, of Portland, and Frank Armitage, of Lane county, were elected vice-chairmen.

Heppner—Plans being made to open swimming pool here.

By George McManus

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