

Gambler's Throw

by Eustace L. Adams

SYNOPSIS: Prisoners on a lonely island, an unusual group of people with few exceptions. Abducted Nancy Wentworth, four rich gangsters and a gambler, Luciel, try to withstand the nervous strain of suspense and tropical heat. Ashwood, the gangster leader and is lame, demands a new form of ransom—installments of board money. While this money was being collected by the gang from an isolated spot their hydroplane was seen by Jerry Colton, Emory Bittles and Stevens, a detective, who are searching for the kidnapers. The three start to follow in their own airplanes, hoping to find the gang's hidden headquarters. Nancy tells Luciel that they have all been selected carefully, and are good psychological material for study. Nancy asks who is paying her board money.

Chapter 14 RACKETS

THERE was a malicious gleam in the cripple's eyes as he watched a pelican wade at the edge of the beach.

"Perhaps we'd better take up one question at a time," he suggested to Nancy. "I happened, quite by accident, to see a splendid picture of you in the rotograph section of a Sunday newspaper just as I was making out my guest list. Beneath it was a caption to the effect that you were engaged to be married to one of America's wealthiest men. Since your fiancé established, so to speak, your financial standing, it occurred to me that you would be a welcome addition to our somewhat exclusive little circle.

"I am quite happy to say that Mr. Macomber, your fiancé, paid your board bill without undue protest." Nancy sat very still for some moments, staring thoughtfully across the glittering water.

"Tell me, Mr. Ashwood," she asked at length, "why did you come down here yourself when you knew we would all be able to identify you in court if you are ever captured?"

"That Miss Wentworth, was part of my plan. My past efforts have been extraordinarily remunerative, but being a restless spirit, I have become bored with them. This is my last racket, as the worthy Mr. Luciel would term it."

"When I first discovered the value of airplanes as part of every intelligent criminal's equipment," he went on, blandly, "I allowed my imagination to run riot upon the uses to which so novel an instrument might be put. This plan occurred to me, bit by bit, and I spent the better part of six months finding a proper location for my guest house. At last I discovered this island, which is nothing short of ideal for the purpose. I purchased a portable house, with all the equipment, gasoline lighting plant, electric refrigerator and the like, and brought it here on a scow, where my men erected it. Very simple job it was, too.

"When the house has served its purpose, I shall disappear. My sanctuary awaits me. In it, I have a grand piano, a modern radio and thousands of books, enough to last me until I die. There, comfortable, surrounded with the things I love, I shall meditate upon these days of rogues, browse contentedly through my library and, perhaps, write a book or two."

He smiled at her, a wide-mouthed, generous smile which contrasted strangely with his words and his actions. She found herself amazed beyond belief at the strange philosophy of this remarkable man. She wondered what he had suffered to give him this warped outlook upon life, but her intuition warned her that it would not be wise to probe too deeply.

"Ah, Mr. Luciel," he said, looking over her shoulder, "your presence this morning speaks wonders for your stamina. You'll pardon me, I'm sure, but that diagonal bandage gives your face an uncommonly raffish look. How are the other inmates?"

One-shot, his face encircled with bandages and surgeon's plaster, grinned painfully.

"Creamy as ever, Limpy," he replied thickly. "Mallory's still in bed. Just saw the steward taking him a highball. Hamilton's back at his blasted solitaire. Martin's sitting in a corner saying nothing while Williams tells him what's the difference between May and September wheat."

"How delightful!" commented the cripple.

Luciel looked at him in wonder. This was a strange ricketer. A little polky, maybe, but a racketeer such as gangland had never known before and would never know again.

"Listen, Limpy," he said abruptly, ignoring Nancy's presence, "I don't begrudge you this game one damn

VETS WILL VISIT PENDLETON RODEO

PENDLETON, Ore., July 26—(AP)—Between 1800 and 2000 veterans, the first contingent of delegates to the American Legion convention at Portland, will arrive here on special trains for the Pendleton round-up,

September 8, 9 and 10, just previous to their own sessions, it was announced today by railroad officials.

The trains will be parked in the railroad yards to accommodate the veterans during their stay. Special programs have been announced by the round-up association which is co-operating with the legion convention committee in providing entertainment for the delegates.

The Indian ceremonial dances, which began at Cayuse on July 4 as a preliminary to the round-up, have just come to a close, during which some of the braves had to be carried from the grounds as a result of their continuous dancing.

Ex-Bank Aide Is Seattle Suicide

SEATTLE, July 26—(AP)—A. Robert Morton, 54, former vice-president of the National Bank of Commerce here, shot and killed himself today at his country home north of the city. He had been ill since last fall.

The best clear Cedar Shingles, \$3.00 per 1000. Regular \$4.00 shingles. Medford Lumber Co.

AWARD CONTRACT LOOKOUT STATIONS

PORTLAND, Ore., July 26—(AP)—The Aladdia company of Portland today was awarded a contract by the federal forest service to furnish 56 forest lookout stations in Oregon and Washington at a cost of \$11,000 on a "knocked-down" basis.

Order New Boiler For Prison Power

SALEM, July 26—(AP)—The state board of control today authorized improvement of the state power plant at the penitentiary, involving the installation of a new boiler. The improvements will be made at a cost of about \$15,000.

Good grades of lumber at cut prices. Medford Lumber Co.

Picture frames made to order. The Peaseley, opp. Holly theater.

Real Estate or Insurance—Leave it to Jones. Phone 796.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Tommy Decides To Stay!

YOU HAVE A FAIRLY LEVEL RUNWAY FOR A HUNDRED YARDS. DON'T RUSH YOUR CLIMB AND HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THAT BEACON.

I AIN'T WORRYIN' ABOUT TH' FLIGHT! WANT ME TO COME BACK FOR YOU?

NO—I'LL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF—BUT KEEP SOMEBODY WITH HERB EVERY MINUTE! DON'T LET ANYTHING HE SAYS GET OUT UNTIL YOU HEAR FROM ME!

I GET YOU—DON'T WANT TO RISK TIPPIN' TH' CROOKS OFF THEIR TRAIL, EH? SAY YOU'VE GOT YOUR GUN, AIN'T YOU?

YES—BUT DON'T GET THE IDEA I'M GOING TO TRY AND PULL OFF A WHOLESALE CAPTURE ALL BY MY LONESOME.

WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST YOU AT THAT—WELL, HERE'S LUCK!

THAT'S FLYING! NOW IF I CAN DO AS WELL WITH MY PART OF THIS JOB WE'LL SOON HAVE A SHOWDOWN ON THIS 'GHOST SHIP' MYSTERY.

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST

S'MATTER POP—Anyhow, He Knew About Baths

WELL, GET OVER THERE, HECTOR, AND GET YOUR FIRST LOOK AT A REAL OCEAN.

WON'T YOU BE SCARED AT IT, HECTOR?

THAT'S IT! ISN'T IT GRAND?

AW-W SHOOH!

SMATTER?

SOMEONE IS USING IT!

By C. M. PAYNE

BOUND TO WIN—What The Message Said

READ IT, BEN!

ALL RIGHT, BUT I SURE IS THE STRANGEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN—HERE'S WHAT IT SAYS: 'THEY COME FOLKS TO—'

—PRISONER'S ROCK-- YOU MAY LIKE IT AND THEN AGAIN YOU MAY NOT. YOU'VE COME, OF COURSE FOR THE TREASURE THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF REACHING IT, ONE BY LAND AND ONE BY SEA—EITHER WAY IT'S EASY BUT THE TRAIL BY LAND IS WELL MARKED--

--I MAY BE TOO BUSY TO SEE YOU WHILE YOU'RE HERE UNLESS YOU STAY FOR A LONG LONG TIME-- I WISH YOU LUCK, BUT WHAT KIND OF LUCK I WON'T SAY JUST NOW-- YOURS, W. D. H.

SIGN HIMSELF W. D. H. EH? US LUCK, BUT WON'T SAY WHAT KIND--

IF OUR BOAT'S GONE MR. COBBY, IT'LL BE ONLY ONE KIND OF LUCK AND THAT'S BAD!

By EDWIN ALGER

THE NEBBS—Fare

JUST A MINUTE, RUDY—HERE COMES VENUS AND HER TWIN.

CAN WE MAKE UP A FOURSOME WITH YOU, MARTY?

THEY'LL PAY FOR THE CADDIES, IF WE GOT 'EM AT THE CADDY HOUSE THEY'D HAVE PAID FOR THE GROUND FEES TOO—I TOLD YOU TO HURRY.

WELL, THAT'S A PRETTY SIGHT—IM NOT JEALOUS BUT YOU'D THINK A MAN HIS AGE WOULD GET ACQUAINTED WITH HIMSELF—THOSE TWO HUSSIES ARE FEEDING THEM FLATTERY AND THEY'RE TAKING IT IN LIKE A HUNGRY WOLF WOULD A SLOW RABBIT.

YOU HIT A NICE ONE, RUDY.

MARTY'S SHORT WORK IS GOOD—HAS SHORT WORK OFF THE TREE.

IS THAT SO? WAIT—TILL YOU ADD UP THE SCORE YOU'LL HAND LITTLE MARTY DOUGH—YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT.

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE WONDERFUL FORM RUDY—YOUR SWING IS PERFECT.

YES, WHEN MY CLUB KISSES THE PILL—GOOD-BYE! IT'S ON A LONG JOURNEY.

LONG AND WIDE—I'VE SPENT HALF MY VACATION WALKING AROUND IN TALL GRASS LOOKING FOR HIS BALL.

NEVER MIND, MARTY, YOU HIT 'EM STRAIGHT—NOTHING EVER GOES WRONG THAT GOES STRAIGHT—NO MATTER HOW FAR IT GOES.

By SOL HESS

MUTT AND JEFF—A Wise Choice

THE CHAIR WISHES TO STATE THAT NEVER HAS HE SEEN SUCH AN INTELLIGENT LOT OF DELEGATES ASSEMBLED AT ANY CONVENTION AS ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY. DO I HEAR ANY NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT?

YES, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WISH TO NOMINATE A MAN WHO RANKS WITH GEO. WASHINGTON, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND ABEL LINCOLN AS A STATESMAN—LITTLE JEFF!

OOWAH—OOWAH—WAH WAH--OOWAH!

I MOVES THAT WE MAKE IT UNANIMOUS!

RARE PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER, I CALL'S HIM!

JUST A LANDSLIDE THASS ALL.

By BUD FISHER

BRINGING UP FATHER

MR. TELLER, THE BANKER TO SEE YOU DO YOU THINK HE'S GONNA VOTE FOR YOU FOR MAYOR?

GOSH, I DON'T KNOW HE'S NOT ONLY A BANKER, BUT A LEADER OF SOCIETY IN THIS TOWN I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HIM.

WELL, MR. JIGGS, I JUST RUN IN TO SAY I'M GOING TO CAST MY VOTE FOR YOU, I'M VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO THIS MISS LUTCHA VOTES FOR MAYOR WE NEED A MAN OF YOUR STANDARD.

SORRY, I MUST RUN ALONG AS I MUST SEE MY DOCTOR. BESIDES, I FORGOT TO TAKE MY MEDICINE.

DON'T HURRY.

WELL? ARE YOU GOIN' TO GIVE HIS VOTE?

HUH! I DON'T KNOW WELL I'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE ELECTION RIGHT AWAY AS I DON'T THINK HE'S GOIN' TO LAST.

By George McManus

MARTIAL LAW LIFTING WILL BE REQUESTED

BERLIN, July 25—(AP)—The German cabinet decided tonight to ask President Von Hindenburg to rescind martial law in Berlin and the province of Brandenburg tomorrow.

Martial law was declared in the capital and in the province July 20 when Chancellor Franz von Papen became federal commissioner with dictatorial powers over the state of Prussia.

Central Point H. E. Meeting Tomorrow

CENTRAL POINT, July 26—(Sp.) Home Economics club will meet Wednesday, July 27, with Meadames D.

Fir-Tex Mill Opens Three Daily Shifts

ST. HELENS, Ore., July 26—(AP)—The Fir-Tex mills here, manufacturers of wood fiber insulating board will resume operations Thursday for a 10-day run. A. E. Millington, manager, announced today. One hundred employees will be given work while a special order is being filled. Three shifts daily will be employed. The mills have been down since March when they ran 30 days.

Desirable houses always in first class condition for rent, lease or sale. Call 105.

Crystalglow—Kodak glass supreme. The Peaseley opp. Holly theater.