

Gambler's Throw

by Eustace L. Adams.

SYNOPSIS: Ashwood, the "gentleman gambler" who is entertaining his "guests" on an island while he collects ransoms, has sent for a minister to marry him to Nancy Westworth, one of his prisoners. But Jerry Colborn, who with Stevens and Emory Butcher is trying to oust Ashwood, intends to marry Nancy himself.

Chapter 27 SECRET MARRIAGE

Ashwood rose abruptly. "Unless I am too optimistic," he chuckled, "another guest is arriving, one who will be glad to give spiritual comfort to those who desire it."

He looked point blank at Lucel, who cursed him. Ten minutes later, the affable host presented the Rev. Dr. Llewellyn Titherington to his guests. The minister was a short, thin man with a bass voice which, being out of proportion to his stature, startled those who heard it for the first time.

Ashwood regarded him with ill-restrained delight. It was evident that Dr. Titherington had read the fulsome accounts of the spectacular kidnappings and recognized the victims as they were introduced. By the time the smiling cripple presented "One-shot Lucel, Flower of Chicago Gangdom," the minister trembled, naturally.

"And now," suggested Ashwood suavely, "I must insist that you rest. Your journey has, no doubt, been fatiguing. Alfred, show Dr. Titherington to his room."

The minister turned and followed the steward. "Sort of too bad," ventured the detective mildly, "to make sport of the little fellow like that. I'm going in to see if I can make him feel a little easier in his mind. He's probably all upset."

Ashwood bowed ironically. "Peace be with you, brother," he pronounced blandly, the drawn-down gravity of his mouth belied by the scoffing twinkle in his eyes.

Stevens turned abruptly and left the room. Walking through the long hall of the guest's wing, he knocked at the door which he guessed would be the minister's. There was no answer, so he entered without invitation. Dr. Titherington was seated on a straight-backed chair, anxiously looking out of the window into the fast darkening twilight. His face was pale, his eyes large and round, but he was in full control of his emotions.

"Well, Reverend, how goes it?" Stevens seated himself on the edge of the bed and studied the other for a moment before broaching his subject. "See here, Reverend, you may have forgotten who I am, amongst all the introductions of a few minutes ago. I'm Stevens, an operative of the United States Treasury department."

The little man looked at him dully. "What are you doing in this den of thieves, then?" he inquired.

"Trying to get away and put the leader of the crooks in prison. There hasn't been a break I could take advantage of yet, so I've had to bide my time." He stopped to marshal his thoughts. Then, abruptly, "You came to marry Ashwood to Miss Westworth, didn't you?"

Dr. Titherington's long fingers wound and unwound the long black ribbon which hung from his nose glasses.

"Yes," he replied at length. "But I am not sure that I shall conduct the ceremony, now."

"I know you won't!" The minister stared curiously at the detective. He was gradually emerging from the fog of depression which had engulfed him.

"What do you mean by that?" he demanded.

"Just that. The cripple is going to abduct that girl against her will. In a moment of whole-hearted generosity, he offered to marry her, the way a feller tosses a bone to a dog. But whether you marry them or not, he's going to take her away unless we can find some way to stop it."

"Perhaps, then," decided the other, "it would be better to marry them."

"It would, if the whole affair couldn't be stopped. But it can. There is a fine young feller here who got into this jam just to rescue her. He has offered to marry her before Limpy gets around to it, hoping that will stop him from carrying her off."

"I shall have nothing to do with it. The whole thing is entirely too fantastic." The black ribbon was hopelessly snarled.

AUTO FEE TOTAL CUT TWO MILLION

SALEM, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Total fees collected by the secretary of state in the motor vehicle department during the month of July this year was \$2,870,536, it was announced today. This sum included the \$2,283,763 received from the 98,150 automobile licenses sold last month, constituting the largest items.

The total fell more than \$2,000,000 under the amount collected from the same sources a year ago when \$5,063,740 was paid in. During July of last year 181,040 automobile license plates were sold bringing in a sum of \$4,132,911 in fees.

COUNTY OFFICES MOVE AUGUST 22

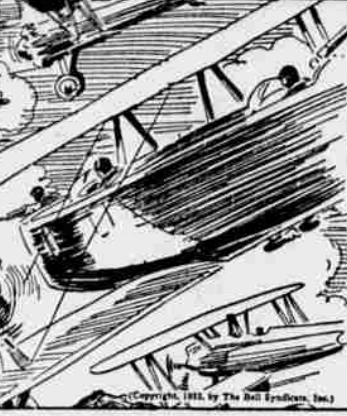
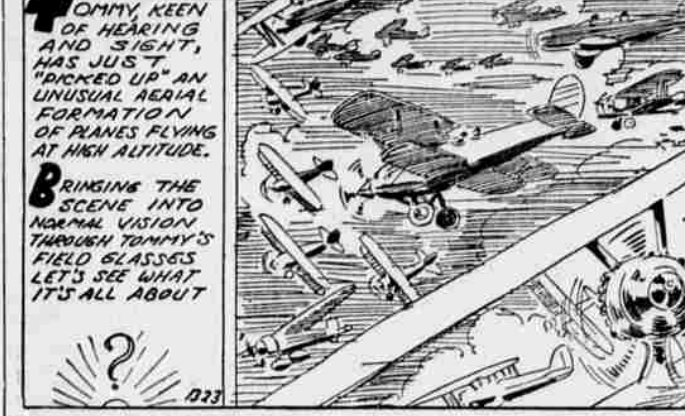
County offices will start the work of moving into the new county courthouse, Monday, August 22, or as soon thereafter as possible, according to the present plans of the county court. This will give the various departments 10 days in which to move and make ready for the dedicatory exercises September 1.

NANKING CABINET QUILTS IN CRISIS

SHANGHAI, Aug. 10.—(AP)—The entire cabinet of the Nanking government resigned this afternoon. Members of the cabinet in Shanghai sent a joint telegram to Nanking, announcing their decision. Mem-

bers in Nanking joined in the action. The crisis which upset the government resulted from failure of efforts to induce Wang Ching-wei to withdraw his resignation as premier. Wang, president of the executive yuan and as such virtual prime minister, resigned unexpectedly Saturday. He stepped out because of his dissatisfaction with the "passive policy" of the northern military authorities with respect to Manchuria. Phone 543. We'll haul away your refuse. City Sanitary Service.

TAILSPIN TOMMY—Another Aerial Mystery!



'SMATTER POP—Desperate Ambrose Has His Lighter Moments



BOUND TO WIN—"Big Feet's" Surprise



THE NEBBS—A Friend In Need



MUTT AND JEFF—Instruction For a Negligent Husband



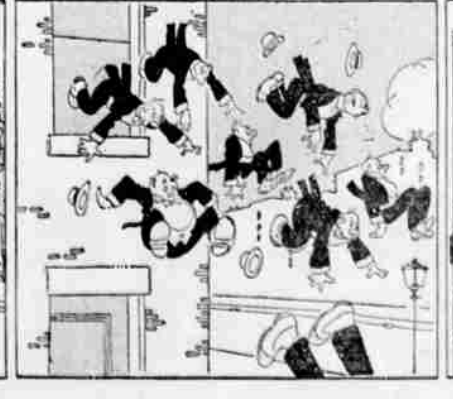
INSURANCE FUNDS EMBEZZLED, CLAIM

SALEM, Aug. 10.—(AP)—Fred M. Gearin of Donald, in Marion county, was in the county jail here this morning following his arrest last night on charges of embezzling \$17,000 from two fire relief organizations, of which he was secretary. Gearin is accused of diverting to his own use \$12,000 from the Farmers Fire Relief association of Butteville and \$5000 from the Hopmen's Fire Relief association. The diversions are alleged to have extended over a number of years. He was expected to be arraigned today.

INDICT MINISTER IN WIFE'S DEATH

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Aug. 10.—(AP)—The Rev. S. A. Berrie was indicted today on a charge of murder in connection with the death of his first wife. The 52-year-old minister was indicted after a day and a half grand jury investigation into the alleged poisoning of the first Mrs. Berrie on last March 21, which was followed in less than two months by the minister's marriage to Ida Bees Berrie, 19-year-old Sunday school teacher in his church. Fender and body repairing. Prices right. Brill Sheet Metal Works.

BRINGING UP FATHER



By OLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORBES

By C. M. PAYNE

By EDWIN ALGER

By SOL HESS

By BUD FISHER

By George McManus