

# A PATH TO PARADISE

by Coningsby DAWSON

**SYNOPSIS:** Day after day Olive goes through the heart-breaking routine of job hunting, returning at night to a luxurious apartment and delicious food—paid for by her wife. His expenses are paid for by a little birthday present for her only to go home and find that her former husband Dicky has sent a Regency bureau worth \$3,000.

## Chapter 23

### A JEALOUS SANTA

NEXT morning when Clive tendered her his own gift, his mood was humble. Dicky had made unfair competition for him. "You ordered me not to spend too much. You may care for it." As she lifted the vase from its wrappings, her face glowed. "You've disobeyed me, old extravagant. How you spoil me!" She was delighted as a child. Over breakfast she never ceased thanking him. He had to narrate the devious bargainings by which he had procured it.

In the hall, on the point of departure, the offensive bureau caught his eye. The devil of jealousy prompted him. "You've been handsome over my measly offering. It isn't a patch on the one your first husband sent you."

He longed to beg her forgiveness. Drifting apart. Going out of his way to wound her. His day was made miserable by the recollection. He came home early to find the bureau installed as a permanent acquisition. Instead of protesting, he forced himself to be broad-minded. The act of atonement which he had planned took place at dinner.

"I bought two tickets for a new musical comedy. If you'd prefer to scrap them—"

"Stay at home! I should say not. You are a darling!" Shortly after the curtain had risen, Santa clutched his hand. There was no tense moment—there rarely are in musical shows—to account for her emotion.

"What's troubling you?" he whispered. "Where? I never saw her, so can't recognize her." Someone behind hushed angrily. Santa pointed to the stage and nudged her husband, indicating the actress who was speaking.

Clive estimated the charms of his wife's rival, who had led her first husband astray. She was of the baby-doll type, flaxen and sugary. The situation was piquant. In a sense it was arbitrating between Lou-Lou and his wife.

During the intermission he and Santa followed the crowd to the foyer. "She ought not to be allowed," Santa tugged on his arm fiercely. "How allowed? Do you mean she ought to be exterminated?"

"It's insulting to have to watch her. How anyone can be such an idiot—"

"She's the kind men fall for." "You couldn't. Or could you?" she inquired jealously.

"The human heart is a mystery," he spoofed her. "Who would imagine that you could have fallen for Dicky? To me she seems a decent enough little person."

"A poacher who breaks up homes and makes a profit by it!" "Look here, this was to have been your birthday treat. We can scout if you wish it."

Her face softened. "Buy me some of those song-records; they're selling them at that table."

He was glad to give her a chance to calm down. She was curiously loquacious. Could see only her own viewpoint. Was convinced she was justified in condemning Lou-Lou; but considered him narrow when he objected to her prolonging the unpleasantness. He would bundle her off for a bite of supper.

Having secured the records, he returned to where he had left her. He spotted her behind a barricade of shoulders in animated conversation with an opera-hat. The face under the opera-hat was turned from him.

As he claimed her, she threw his clear look. "Hello darling! Here's Dicky. Saves me the trouble of writing. I was thanking him for our wedding present."

"Good of you to remember my wife's birthday," he said shortly. Luckily the announcers prevented further conversation by calling the next act.

As they passed down the aisle Santa hugged his arm.

"What a coincidence!" The encounter seemed to have put her in a good humor; the rest of the performance she enjoyed thoroughly. On the drive home she snuggled. "Wasn't she cute? I take every thing back. I'm sorry I was snappy."

"That's all right," he muttered. "It was queer Dicky being there," she ventured. "You get a kick out of discussing him."

"But I've no one else to talk to," she pouted. "Then shoot."

"How did Lou-Lou scramble into that show?" "Someone's backed her. We should worry."

"One more question." The taxi was halting. "Do you think Dicky's backing her?" "Not my business. I was never married to him."

Having entered the apartment she proposed that they should raid the ice-box. He volunteered to accompany her, but she refused.

Left alone, the rudeness of his retort appalled him. Where would things end if he took to throwing her first marriage at her? Facing him, established in a place of honor, almost as though it were Dak in person, stood the handsome three thousand dollar bureau.

"Admiring it!" Santa paused in the doorway. "Allow me." He took the tray which she was carrying from her and set it down on a table. When she had seated herself, he thrust a cushion behind her and proceeded to wait on her.

"Why the politeness?" Her mischievous was returning. "Guiltily conscience." He shrugged his shoulders. "Funny boy!" She reached up to him.

"Not till I've said what's troubling me. One kiss from you and I'm in your power."

"Don't you want to be?" "This is your birthday. Anniversaries are milestones. One halts to look back and forwards. I've been looking back, remembering how I longed for you and the struggle I had to win you."

"Well, you've won me." She helped herself to cheese and crackers. "I haven't won you the way I'd hoped."

"Darling," she threw him one of her melting glances, "you're mine. To me you're perfect. Everything's going to come all right."

"I'm not referring to finances. Don't you realize, Santa, that there's a growing friction between us? We love each other to distraction, but—"

"Of course you're irritable, poor dear," she interrupted. "I make allowances."

"If we were as certain of each other as we were at St. Jean there wouldn't be any necessity for allowances." He raised her hand to his lips. "Don't be an ostrich. You're blind to things that displease you."

She curled an arm behind her head. "It's a fact. Refusing to see unpleasant things is my way of getting through life. Yours is to imagine them."

"I don't imagine that." He pointed at the bureau. "I didn't imagine Dak tonight or your excitement over meeting him. I didn't imagine my unkindness to you this morning. And there's one other thing I didn't imagine—your jealousy over Lou-Lou."

"Why mention—why not ignore?" "That's the difference between us, darling. I can't ignore—you can. You forget; I go on remembering. I want you to be absolutely mine in the same way you try to make me absolutely yours. The past intrudes. It crops out all over the map—in things you say, your attitude to me, your character."

She beckoned and wouldn't speak till he stood beside her. "Let's do better." He took her hand between his hands, tilting her face. "You're not hurt with me for having spoken?" "Clive, I worship you." As he stooped her eyes closed. "You always close them." Hours later, it seemed, she asked: "You couldn't fall for her, could you?" "For whom?" His wits were clouded. "For Lou-Lou?" "What a question!" (Copyright 1931-1932, Coningsby Dawson)

Santa busies herself in Clive's affairs, tomorrow, with results she did not expect.

## JACKSON RATIO IN ASSESSMENT AT OLD FIGURE

SALEM, Nov. 19.—(AP)—Very little change in the ratio of local assessed property values to the true cash values this year over that of last year was reported by the State Tax commission today. The commission announced the ratios by counties today, with comparative ratios of a year ago. The ratios are used by the commission in apportioning the state levy among the 36 counties. The list is as follows: County Ratios. 1931 1932

Baker	67	67
Benton	52	52
Clackamas	42	42
Clatsop	67	67
Columbia	60	61
Coos	62	62
Crook	57	57
Curry	72	72
Deschutes	52	52
Douglas	42	42
Gilliam	61	61
Grant	74	74
Harney	70	70
Hood River	61	61
Jackson	65	65
Jefferson	74	74
Josephine	65	65
Klamath	53	53
Lake	74	74

Lane	53	53
Lincoln	71	71
Linn	53	53
Malheur	49	49
Morrow	71	71
Multnomah	53	53
Polk	44	44
Sherman	73	73
Tillamook	71	71
Umatilla	67	67
Wallowa	65	65
Wasco	43	43
Washington	72	72
Wheeler	43	43
Yamhill	53	53

## Citrus Industry To Use More Ink

It is encouraging to see at least one agricultural industry adopt good, sound business principles. The citrus industry is giving us something to shoot at. It has been announced that the California Fruit Growers Exchange, Los Angeles, will spend \$1,250,000 on advertising in 1933, compared with \$690,000 this year. Reasons, a bumper crop this year and another anticipated for next year.—Better Fruit.

## Washington Fruit Freight Reduced

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—(AP)—Representative Sumners (R., Washington) today said he had obtained from the interstate commerce commission an order reducing the freight rate on C grade apples and unwrapped pears from points in Washington to Nebraska, Colorado and some adjacent territory.

## ROOSEVELT TALK TO HOOVER FIRST SINCE WAR DAYS

EXECUTIVE MANSION, ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 19.—(AP)—Governor Roosevelt's telephonic conversation with President Hoover Friday was the first exchange of importance between the two rivals for the presidency since world war days when the Hoovers and the Roosevelts were intimate friends in Washington. Mr. Roosevelt and the president have met twice since the latter days of the war, but on each occasion their conversation was limited to the conventional situations. The last meeting between the president-elect and Mr. Hoover was last spring at the governors' conference in Richmond, Va., and a few days later at the White House when President and Mrs. Hoover entertained the governors. Two years before, Mr. Roosevelt was a member of the executive committee of the conference which called upon the president at the White House. Governor Roosevelt talked to Mr. Hoover Friday from his study on the first floor of the executive mansion. He is still "taking it easy" after the slight attack of influenza which sent him to bed Friday.

## Anderson Creek

ANDERSON CREEK, Nov. 19.—(Special)—F. W. Centers is spending a few days with his daughter, Mrs. Jas. Mays and family. Ralph Green and family were in Ashland Thursday. James MacDowell was working in Talent last week. Frank Marquess and family were out to the valley Thursday. Mrs. James MacDowell spent Wednesday at Mrs. Marquess' home. Jas. Mays was sawing wood last week. Mrs. J. Riddell was out to the valley Wednesday. Miss Ruth Mays was in Medford Wednesday. W. Shann and wife were in Medford Tuesday.

## Phoenix

PHOENIX, Nov. 19. (Sp.)—A special program is being planned by committee chairman of the grange here, to include a play and interesting musical numbers, to be given in the very near future. The community will be invited, and a small admission charge will be made. Triumbe club met with Mrs. C. B. Ward Wednesday. Plans were laid for the December meeting and each lady of the club has been asked to bring an apron, and then during the meeting these will be distributed. Articles will be made for a Christmas box to be sent to the home in

Riverside, Calif. Next meeting will be December 2 at the home of Mrs. Minnie McClain, with Mrs. Dave Watt assisting. At the close of the meeting Wednesday refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. C. B. Ward and Mrs. Ray Ward. Practice was held at the Phoenix grange hall Tuesday for the third and fourth degree team. Fine progress is being made by this team, and they plan to put on initiation before long. Another practice of the team will be held Sunday night at the grange hall at 7 o'clock, and all members are urged to be present.

Marshall-Smith-Leonard, cor. Main and Grape, have some good bargains in greeting cards. Drop in early for best selections.

Broken windows glazed by Trowbridge Cabinet Works. Will do embroidery work to suit customer. 612 W. 4th.

## Clean Sidewalks Scheffel's Plea

A sidewalk cleaning campaign is requested of all Medford residents by City Superintendent Fred Scheffel today. The abundance of leaves on the sidewalks, which are constantly gathering more and more moisture, constitutes a hazardous condition, he stated last night, and urged residents to clean them up before accidents result.

When needing duplicating sales books, flat-packs or fan-fold cash register forms, ledger sheets for bookkeeping machines or any other kind of printing, don't order from out-of-town firms and pay more. Phone 75 and one of our representatives will call.

FREE—Pioneers and descendants photographed without charge for pioneer historical collection—SHANGLE STUDIO.



By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORBES

## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Watchful Waiting—And A Bombshell!



## BOUND TO WIN—Dan Digger



By EDWIN ALGER

## S'MATTER POP—An Experiment



By C. M. PAYNE

## THE NEBBS—Convalescing



By SOL HESS

## ELKS PLAN LIVELY THANKSGIVING DANCE

Elaborate preparations are being made for the annual Elks club Thanksgiving Eve. dance at the Elks' temple Wednesday night, November 23, according to Bob Strang, chairman. A popular local orchestra will furnish symphony for this holiday dance and special features will lend additional interest. Other members of the committee in charge are: Charlie Gilbert and Grover Corum. According to custom all Elks and their friends may attend. Join Wurtz Book Club, \$1 per year. A suitable Xmas gift. Xmas card and folder given with each membership. Phone 542. We'll haul away your used City sanitary fixtures.

## SAMSON STORE HAS PART IN FEED TEST

Poultrymen who are interested in the Nopco XX free feed test may secure this high quality mixer and details of the contest at the F. E. Samson store at 223 North Riverside. Through an error this company was omitted from the list printed in Friday's Mail Tribune. Nopco's unique contest will be conducted the remainder of November and up to February 28, 1933, according to announcement. Norris States Stand McCook, Neb. Nov. 19.—(AP)—Senator George W. Norris today said he was opposed to any form of cancellation of the war debts and that he did not want a cabinet position. He stated his views in an interview as he started for Washington.

## BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManus