

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON
OCTOBER 27, 1951

CRIMESTOPPERS TEXTBOOK

CARS WITH LICENSE PLATES BENT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE UNREADABLE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE.

I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS COLD, SAM.

MY HANDS ARE GROWING NUMB—THE THERMOMETER STILL READS 18° BELOW.

THIS IS A FANTASTIC SITUATION. THE BASEMENT IS A MASS OF FLAMES. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH THE FREEZER LOCKER.

IN WHAT PART OF THE BASEMENT IS THAT FREEZER LOCKER LOCATED, TRACY?

NORTH END, I BELIEVE, SAM.

I SMELL KEROSENE FUMES. THIS LOOKS LIKE AN INCENDIARY JOB TO ME.

I SAW SOMETHING LYING ON THE BASEMENT FLOOR—LOOKED LIKE A BODY, BUT I'M NOT SURE.

WITH THIS PLACE IN FLAMES, THERE'S NO POSSIBLE WAY TO REACH THE FREEZER LOCKER!

OH, YES, THERE IS!

THAT FREEZER LOCKER ORIGINALLY WAS A ROOT CELLAR BEFORE THE DAYS OF REFRIGERATION.

MY FATHER HAD A SECRET EXIT BUILT TO THE OUTSIDE THROUGH THE ROOT CELLAR. HE USED IT WHENEVER HE WANTED TO GO OUT NIGHTS WITHOUT MOTHER KNOWING—UNTIL US KIDS DISCOVERED IT.

THERE SHOULD BE AN IRON HATCH COVER OVER THERE UNDER THAT CLUMP OF BUSHES SOMEWHERE.

"THE FREEZER WALL WAS SEALED OVER WITH INSULATION, OF COURSE, BUT YOU CAN BREAK THROUGH THAT," SAYS THE OLD AUNT.

HEY, LOOK!

IS THAT IT?

A FLAMING INFERNO BEYOND THAT DOOR AND IN HERE 18° BELOW!—WHAT IRONY!

IN THE QUEER MESS OF HUMAN DESTINY THE DETERMINING FACTOR IS LUCK. WHILE IN FACT, SO MUCH LUCK COULD GET A WEAKER MAN THAN SAM SHOT!

YOU IDIOT! YOU LOST THE CASINO! YOU, THE EEL, AND YOUR TRICKS! AND YOU ALSO LOST ME 258 THOUSAND IN CASH!

BUT TO DOUBLE ON HIGH CARD, TEN TIMES STRAIGHT! AND WITHOUT TRICKS! HOW COULD HE DO IT?

HE INSULTED YOU! YOU SHOULD HAVE SHOT HIM—WE'D ALL HAVE SWORN IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE...

MY CORPSE COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS WHAT YOU SWORE TO, HAD I TRIED TO DRAW AGAINST THAT MAN!

BAH! HE'S ONLY A BLUFFER!

BLUFFER? HIM? PERHAPS, MY FRIEND! IF YOU THINK SO, YOU CALL HIM, EH? ME, I PASS!

IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY! THAT OLD SAFE! NOTHING VALUABLE... STILL... OH, WELL—HE CAN'T OPEN IT WITHOUT THE COMBINATION... HANDLE THAT TOMORROW...

I NEVER THOUGHT ANY MAN COULD DO IT, SEÑOR! NOW YOU ARE RICH, EH? ALL THIS MONEY!

EH? OH, THAT! HERE, PEDRO... HELP ME WITH THIS SAFE!

BUT WITHOUT THE COMBINATION—IT IS A VERY SOLID SAFE...

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND A TOWEL AND A HATCHET...

HERE YOU ARE, SEÑOR... BUT I DO NOT SEE HOW...

SH-H-H... HOLD THE TOWEL, SO... NOW BE QUIET, WHILE I TAP AND TURN THIS KNOB...

...AND... AH... R-26... SH-H... ANOTHER CLICK... L-47... AH... NOW, THEN... HERE WE GO... IT SHOULD...

...AND IT DOES! SEE, PEDRO? SIMPLE! SHINE THAT DESK LAMP IN, EH? HM-M...

MANY OLD PAPERS... BUT NO MONEY... I THINK YOU WON ALL THE MONEY...

LOOK, SEÑOR! AN OLD RIFLE... IS THAT NOT STRANGE? TO KEEP A RIFLE IN A SAFE?

FOR THAT PARTICULAR RIFLE? MAYBE NOT, PEDRO... MAYBE NOT STRANGE AT ALL...

HAROLD GRAY