ASCO ASC

nothing whatever to say, Kirby. express my sentiments exactly." well. Then we might open loor and invite in Miss Harriman. are others who should be along

to have them all here." "Any one else?" Chief of Police."

James looked at him hard. "This a private conference, then?" "That's a matter of definitions. are invited only those who have a n to be present," Kirby answered.

To my office, I think." "If you prefer the chief's office we'll ourn an' go there," The broker shrugged. "Oh, very

Kirby stepped to the door connecting ith an outer office and threw it open. fr. and Mrs. Hull, Olson and the Chief Police followed Phyllis Harriman the room. More chairs were

"Chief, is there anything you want

"Chief, is there anything you want to say?" Kirby asked.
"Not a wor-rd. I'm sittin' in a parquet seat. It's your show, son."
Kirby's disarming smile won the chief's heart. "I want to say, now that I've talked with the chief several times. He's given me a lot of good tips an' I've worked under his direction."

The head of the police force grinned.
"Outside of the chief every one here
connected closely with this case an'
involved in it. It happens that every
an an' woman of us were in my
uscle's apartments either at the time of his death or just before or after."

Kirby raised a hand to meet Olson's

"Oh, I know. You weren't in the come, but you were on the fire-escape stade. From the angle of the police ou may have been in. All you had was to pass through an open

"Suspicion fell first on me an' on Hull." Kirby went on. "You've seen it all thrashed out in the papers. I had been unfriendly to my uncle for years, an' I was seen goin' to his rooms an' leavin' them that evening. My wan suspicion was directed to Hull. the Coroner's inquest changed the time
as to get me into my uncle's apartment half an hour earlier than I had
been there. I'd caught them in a panic
of terror when I knocked on their door. They'd lied to get me into trouble. Hall had quarreled with Uncle James an' had threntened to go after him with a gun in two days after that time—and it was just forty-eight hours later he was killed. It looked a lot like Hull to me.

"I had one big advantage, care, a let of inside facts not open to you," the cattleman explained. "I knew, for instance, that Miss McLean here had been in the rooms just before me. She the young woman my uncle had I had one big advantage, chief, a was the young woman my uncle had the appointment to meet there before 10 o'clock. You will remember Mr. Hanton's testimony. Miss McLean an' danton's testimony.

compared notes, so we were able to compared notes, so we were able to compare down the time during which the state place. We worked together. She gave me other important data. Perhaps she had better tell in her own words about the clue she found that we followed."

Rose turned to the chief. Her young face flew a charming flag of color.

"I told you about how I found Mr. Cunningham tied to his chair, chief. I forgot to say that in the living room there was a faint odor of perfume. On my way upstairs I passed in the dark a man and a woman. I had got a whiff of the same perfume then. It was violet. So I knew they had been in the apartment just before me. Mr. Lane discovered later that Miss Harriman had that scent."

"Which opened up a new field of peculation," Kirby went on. "We legan to run down facts an' learned that my cousin James had secretly married Miss Harriman at Golden a month before. My uncle had just learned the news. He had a new will made by his lawyer, one that cut James off without a cent an' left his property to Juck Cunningham."

Cunningham."
"That will was never signed," Jack broke in quickly.

Kirby looked at Jack and smiled cyntally. "No, it was never signed. Your brother discovered that when he looked the will over at uncle's desk a few minters after his death."

"Cumulative evidence pointed to ames Cunningham," continued Kirby.
"He tried to destroy the proof of his marriage to Miss Harriman. He later pretended to lose an important paper that might have cleared up the case. He tried to get me to drop the matter an go back to Wyoming. The coll wound closer round him.

go back to Wyoming. The coil wound closer round him.

"About this time another factor attracted my attention. I had the good luck to unearth at Dry Valley the man who had written threatenin' letters to my uncle an' to discover that he was stayin' next door to the Paradox the very night of the murder. More, my friend Sanborn an' I guessed he had actually been on the fire escape of the Wyndham an' seen somethin' of importance through the window. Later I forced a statement from Olson. He told all he had seen that night."

Kirby turned to the rancher from Dry

Kirby turned to the rancher from Dry Valley and had him tell his story. When he had finished the cattleman made

comment.

"On the face of it Olson's story leaves in doubt the question of who actually killed my uncle. If he was tellin' the whole truth, his evidence points either to the Hulls or my cousin James. But it was quite possible ne had seen my uncle tied up an' helpless, an' had himself stepped through the window an' shot him. Am I right, Chief?"

The Chief nodded grimly. "Right, son."

"You told me you didn't think I did it," Olson burst out bitterly.
"An' I tell you so again," Kirby snawered, smiling. "I wab mentionin' possibilities. On your evidence it lies between my cousin James an' the Hulls, It was the Hu'ls that had tied him up after Cass Hull knocked him senseless. It was Hull who had given him two days more to live. And that's not all. Not an hour an' a half ago I had a talk with Mrs, Hull. She admitted, under pressure, that she returned to my uncle's apartment again to release him from the chair. She was alone with alm, an' he was wholly in her power. She is a woman with a passionate sense

Pawned People

You have heard of pawned things. rank L. Packard, author of "The iracle Man" and "From Now On," has pawned people as the haracters in his new novel, which egins scrially on Saturday. Watch

"Pawned"

dead about a day. Just a day before this time Miss McLean an' I met James Cunningham comin' out of the Paragon. He was white an' shaking. He was sufferin' from nausea, an' his arm was badly strained. He explained it by sayin' he had fallen downstairs. Later, I wondered about that fall. I'm still wonderin'. Had he just come out of the apartment where Horikawa was hidin'? Had the tendons of that arm been strained by a jujutsu twist? And had he left Horikawa behind him dead on the bed?"

James, white to the lips looked to the strained by the strained by the lips looked to a judge or just". In the room an' killed him while noue of us were present," explained Kirby.

"If there is such an unknown man you can cut the time down to five minutes instead of ten, providing your schedule is correct," James cut in. "For according to it I was there part of the time and Mrs. Hull part of the rest of it."

"Yes," agreed his cousin.

"But you may have decided that Mrs. Hull is X or that I am." jeered James.
"If so, of course that ends it. No need for a judge or just."

hidin'? Had the tendons of that arm been strained by a jujutsu twist? And had he left Horikawa behind him dead on the bed?"

James, white to the lips, looked steadily at his cousin. "A very ingenious theory. I've always complimented you on your imagination," he sold, a little hoarsely, as though from a parched throat.

"Yes," agreed his cousin. "Yes," agreed his cousin.
"But you may have decided that Mrs. Hull is X or that I am." jeered James. "If so, of course that ends it. No need for a judge or jury."

Kirby turned to the man by the door. "Chief, one of the queer things about this mystery is that all the witnesses had somethin' to conceal. Go right through the list, an' it's true of every one of us. I'm talkin' about the im-

"You do not desire to make any explanation?" Kirby asked.
"Thanks, no. I'm not on trial for my life here, am I?" answered the oil broker quietly, with obvious irony.
I From his pocket Kirby drew the envelope upon which he had a few hours earlier penciled the time schedule relating to his uncle's death.
"One of the points that struck me in Japanese, I doubt to have turned it over to you but I didn't. I was kinda playin' a lone hand. At that time I didn't suspect my cousin James at all. We were my cousin James at all. We were

lating to his uncle's death.

"One of the points that struck me workin' together on this thing. At earliest about this mystery was that least I thought so. I found out better

of injury. What happened then nobody else saw."

I He stopped a second time to find the logical way of proceeding with his story. The silence in the room was tense. The proverbial pin could have been heard.

"I've been leaving Horkawa out of the story," the cattleman went on. "I've got to bring him in now. He's the hinge on which it all swings. The man or woman that killed my uncle killed Horikawa too."

James Cunningham, sitting opposite Kirby with his cold eyes steadily fixed on him, for the first time gave visible sign of his anxiety. It came in the form of a little gulping sound in bis throat.

"Cole Sanborn and I found Horikawa in the room where he had been killed.

The doctors thought he must have been to find the man who solved it would have to work out pretty closely the time element. Inside of an hour ten people besides Uncle James were in his rooms. They must 'a' trod on each other's heels right fast, I figured. So I checked up the time as carefully as I could. They must 'a' trod on each other's ment. Inside of an hour ten people besides Uncle James were in his rooms. They must 'a' trod on each other's ment. Inside of an hour ten people besides Uncle James were in his rooms. They must 'a' trod on each other's ment. Inside of an hour ten people besides Uncle James were in his rooms. They must 'a' trod on each other's ment. Inside of an hour ten people besides Uncle James were in his rooms. They must 'a' trod on each other's heels right fast, I figured. So I checked up the time as carefully as I could. "James Cunningham, sitting opposite the hime as carefully as I could. "James Cunningham, sitting opposite the time as carefully as I could. "Ye seen the story." He handed the envelope to James.

Jack rose and looked over his brother's shoulder. His quick eye ran down the list. "I get the rest of it." he said. "But what does X mean?"

"Xi is the ten minutes of tracking the story." It came in the list. "I get the rest of it." he said. "But what does X mean?"

"Xi is the ten minutes of uncles. The men of the

Cunningham visibly fought for his

gary, which, no doubt, you know is very much against the law—does it convict me of the murder of my uncle?"

The tension in the room was nerveshattering. Men and women suspended breathing while they waited for an answer.

"Unfortunately for your theory, it was a clerk of mine who lest the paper. I had nothing to do with it," James retorted coldly. "No doubt the paper has been destroyed, but not by me. Quite by accident, I judge."

His cousin let off a bomb beneath the broker's feet. "You'll be glad to know that the paper wasn't destroyed," he said. "I have it, with a translation, in my pocket at the present moment."

James clutched the arms of his chair. Ilis knuckles grew white with the strain. "Where—where did you find it?" he managed to say.

"In the most private drawer of your safe, where you hid it," Kirby replied

"In the most private drawer of your he answered. "He's knockin' at the afe, where you hid it," Kirby replied door now. Enter X."

To Be Concluded Tomorrow

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> For "the best last line" furnished to the incomplete Limerick which appears in

Next Sunday's Public Ledger

Sunday Public Ledger readers have "kept after us" so strenuously to run a Limerick Contest on Sunday that we have arranged to gratify their wish. The first Big Three-Prize Limerick Classic will begin next Sunday, February 19, and will continue each Sunday thereafter until further notice.

> The same easy rules which prevail for the Limerick Contest running every day in the Evening Public Ledger will apply to contestants of the Sunday Public Ledger Limericks.

Now, Limerick Fans, you can be a jolly Limericker seven days a week!

Six days a week in the Evening Public Ledger, where the Daily Prize for "the best last line" to incomplete Limerick is One Hundred Dollars.

One Day a week in the Sunday Public Ledger, where you have a chance to receive Two Hundred Dollars First Prize, One Hundred Dollars Second Prize, and Fifty Dollars Third Prize for writing "the best last line" to one incomplete Limerick.

Remember, each Sunday's Limerick must be

answered and your "best last line" received not later than the following Wednesday.

Successful contestants to each Sunday's incomplete Limerick will be announced one week later in the Sunday Public Ledger.

Bear in mind it is just as easy to join and participate in this Big Three-Prize Limerick Contest in the Sunday Public Ledger as in the Limerick Contest which is running every day in the Evening Public

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SUNDAY

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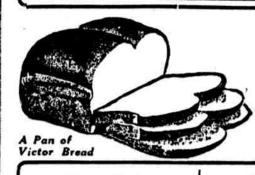
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