

TANGLED TRAILS

By WILLIAM MacLEOD RAINE
Author of "A Man Four-Square"
"Gunlight Pass," etc.
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KIRBY turned to Rose. She looked at James Cunningham and he might have been the dirt under her feet. "I have nothing whatever to say, Kirby. You express my sentiments exactly." Kirby smiled. "Then we might open the door and invite in Miss Harriman. There are others who should be along with that have a claim also to be present." "What others?" asked Jack Cunningham. "The other suspects in the case. I prefer to have them all here." "Any one else?" "The Chief of Police." "James looked at him hard. "This is a private conference, then?" "That's a matter of definition. I have invited only those who have a claim to be present," Kirby answered. "To my office, I think." "If you prefer the chief's office we'll adjourn an' go there." "Oh, very well." Kirby stepped to the door connecting with an outer office and threw it open. Mr. and Mrs. Hull, Olson and the Chief of Police followed Phyllis Harriman into the room. More chairs were brought in. "Chief, is there anything you want to say?" Kirby asked. "Not a word. I'm sittin' in a paragon seat. It's your show, son." "I want to say now that I've talked with the chief several times. He's given me a lot of tips an' I've worked under his direction." "The head of the police force grinned. "Outside of the chief every one here is connected closely with this case an' is involved in it. It happens that every man an' woman of us were in my uncle's apartments either at the time of his death or just before or after." Kirby raised a hand to meet Olson's protest. "Oh, I know. You weren't in the room, but you were on the fire-escape outside. From the angle of the police you may have been in. All you had to do was to pass through an open window." "Suspicion fell first on me an' on Hull," Kirby went on. "A very ingenious theory. I've always complimented you on your imagination." He said, a little hoarsely, as though from a parched throat. "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. "From his pocket Kirby drew the envelope upon which he had a few hours earlier pencilled the time schedule relating to his uncle's death. "One of the points that struck me earliest about this mystery was that

of injury. What happened then nobody else saw." 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 Horikawa out of the story," the cattlemaster 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 his throat. "Cole Sanborn and I found Horikawa in the room where he had been killed. The doctors thought he must have been

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. Here's the schedule I made out. Maybe you'd like to see it." 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?" "X is the ten minutes of uncle's time I can't account for. Some of us were with him practically every other minute. X is the whole unknown quantity. It is the time in which he was probably actually killed. It is the chance, may be, by some thousandth chance,

composure. He did not speak until he had perfect self-control. Then it was with a sneer. "And this paper which you allege you found in my safe—after a burglary, 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 nerve-shattering. Men and women suspended breathing while they waited for an answer. "On the contrary, it acquits you of any guilt whatever in the matter." Phyllis Cunningham gave a broken little sob and collapsed into her husband's arms. Jack rose, his face working, and caught his brother by the shoulder. "These two had suffered greatly, not only because of their fear for him, but because of the fear of his guilt that had poisoned their peace. James, too, was moved, as much by their love for him as by the sudden roller that had lifted from his heart. But his pride held him outwardly aloof. "Since you've decided I didn't do it, Mr. Lane, perhaps you'll tell us then who did," he suggested presently. "Why, yes, that seems fair enough," he answered. "He's knockin' at the door now. Enter X."

to be concluded tomorrow



"And this paper which you allege you found in my safe—does it convict me of the murder of my uncle?"

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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-Price 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-Price Limerick Contest in the Sunday Public Ledger as in the Limerick Contest which is running every day in the Evening Public Ledger.

See Next Sunday's Public Ledger for Full Details

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SUNDAY

PUBLIC LEDGER

of Philadelphia

"Make It a Habit"

Pawned People

You have heard of pawned things. Frank L. Packard, author of "The Miracle Man" and "From Now On," has pawned people as the character used to pawn things. It begins serially on Saturday. Watch for "Pawned"

The Business of Living

No matter who we are or how busy we may be, we must all pay strict attention to the business of "just living." Our bodies need a regular supply of good food, as fuel for the marvelous engines of energy that they are. Even a mighty statesman, with the fate of an empire in his hands, must pause to eat. The grocery business thus has its romantic side; and realizing the importance of the role we play in the worldly scheme of things, we are happy in the knowledge that we are able to play it so well. This we do by carrying only high quality merchandise and pricing it as low as possible, consistent with its high quality. Ours is the happy combination of both Quality and Economy.

What would groceries be costing today were it not for the Asco Stores?

Big Values in Quality Vegetables Reg. 15c Can Lima Beans Cut to 11c Always enjoyable.	Reg. 14c Can Sugar Beets Cut to 12 1/2c High quality. Low price.	Reg. 14c Can Teddy Bear Sugar Corn 10c Sweet and tender.
Choice Tomatoes 11c & 15c Can Real garden flavor.	Quality Succotash 13c can A very nice side dish.	Tender Peas 12 1/2c can With "just picked" sweetness.

ASCO Coffee

There are forty delightful surprises in every pound—one in each cup of golden brown mellowness.

lb 25c

Taste the difference!

ASCO Evaporated Milk

"As pure as the morning dew"

all can **9c**

Special for This Week

Reg. 12c Best **Pink Salmon** Cut to **9c** Can

Customers who are fond of Pink Salmon should take advantage of this unusually low price.

3 Cans 25c

Gold Seal Cartons of twelve **EGGS 52c**

You take no risk in buying eggs at an Asco Store. We guarantee every one. Gold Seal Eggs are the pick of the nests—big and full.

Strictly Fresh Eggs, doz 47c

Not quite so large as Gold Seal, but positively fresh.

ASCO Teas 12c

1/2-lb pkg, 23c; 1-lb pkg, 45c

Refreshing teas, carefully picked and blended. A flavor for every taste.

Orange Pekoe India Ceylon
Old Country Style Plain Black Mixed

CAKE AND CRACKER SPECIALS

Chocolate Fingers lb **27c**

Soda Crackers lb **12c**

Louella BUTTER

The finest butter in America!

Richland Butter, lb. **43c**

Pure creamery prints.

Special This Week Only!

Regular 9c Packages Asco Brand

Macaroni Elbow Macaroni Spaghetti 7c pkg

The family would enjoy Baked Macaroni and cheese as a little surprise.

4 pkgs **25c**

Any assortment.

Rich Creamy **Cheese** lb **25c**

If you like good cheese, here's a real treat!

Minced Corned Beef lb **8c**

Already cooked with potatoes. Just heat and serve.

Asco Oleomargarine lb **20c**

Splendid for table use, baking or frying. The price is remarkably low for this high quality.

Victor Bread

Made of pure ingredients and baked in Dough Rooms where even the air is screened!

Victor Raisin Bread loaf **10c**

With luscious California Raisins.

Fine Fish

Norway Mackerel, each 5c, 7c, 15c
Asco Threaded Codfish, pkg 9c
Asco Boneless Codfish, brick 15c
Gorton's Codfish Cakes, can 18c
Calif. Tuna Fish, 1/2-lb. can 15c
Calif. Sardine Herring, big can 19c
Choice Sardines, can 5c

Fancy Fruits

Calif. Evap. Peaches, lb 19c
Calif. Evap. Apricots, lb 29c
Haw. Pineapple, med can 22c
Haw. Pineapple, 11-oz can 22c
Sliced Peaches, can 23c, 29c
Calif. Yellow Peaches, can 23c, 29c
Oregon Plums, big can 25c

ASCO Pork and Beans

3 cans **25c**

Quality beans at a bargain price.

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Small Lean Smoked Picnics . . lb 15c

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These are small, tender chickens and weigh from 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds each.

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