## The Free Press' Short Story

## The Case of Jerry Tompkins

By BRINEST L. THURSTON

Howard had gone to college and then

to law school and had shone brilliantly

Jerry had entered an engineering school

and had made a wonderful record in the

Howard had never forgiven it .

the talking. He railed at the judge for

Jerry unmercifully, and he pitted him-

self for having to defend a man h

burt, puzzled expression in her eyes

This was not at all the Howard to whom

she had become accustomed. After a

time as he continued, she grew restless

and mixed about the room. Suddenly

she did the unexpected. She picked up

Before his expression could change to

show the surprise he felt. Howard caught

the reflection of the expression already

registered there. He saw his even hot

and angry, the black scowl on his face,

"Is this the man who is going to de-

Howard dropped into a chair Color

flushed his face, then drained away

she went on. I'm afraid you're really

so anxious to see the evil in Jerry that

"What good is there" he growled

"There's almost always some good, if

"He takes pride in his wrongdoing,"

"I wonder Howard, before, you have you conference with him, go to the root of some of these things you hold against

Casing into her fine eyes, Howard

yielded. "All right," he growled almost.

roughly. "You win. I'll see what I can'

him and see what you can find."

tend another man against possible

the tight lips the bitterness

justice"" asked the girl quietly

that I am not fit to act for hun

you're utterly blind to the good."

a small migror and held it before him

Norma listened to his ravings with a

whom he had no fulth whatsoever

putting the case in his hands. He flayed

to secure a driver's license, he had ob- affice argued me out of it."

machine shops, but had crushed heavily

O you plead guilty or not guilty little of a bully in his early days. Howard, quiet and retiring, had been a natural to the charge against you?" target for him. Later Jerry had sparkled asked young Judge Wilkins. Jerry Tompkins, at the bar, raised his brilliantly in athletics, winning places on heavy black eyebrows whimsically and teams that Howard had longed for. shrugged his shoulders. The corners of his mouth quirked oddly. "Borry to disappoint Your Honor." He spoke with a chuckle in his voice. "I plead not guilty Too bad my conscience won't permit me to save the county the expense of my in his classes, and finally had left, in trial in these hard times."

Judge Wilkins flushed at the slightly insolent tone, as well as at the words. He was a very new judge and the dignity of his office rested strongly upon him. His gray eyes, hardened and chilled; yet young in years, Jerry was an old offender who usually pleaded guilty and took all that was coming to him. The judge was wondering a little at this change of atti-

"Remember where you are," he reminded the prisoner curtly. "Your plea. take it, is 'Not guilty.' Have you coun-

As Jorry gazed up at the bench his soft dark eves lit with an imp of mischief but his line did not smile and his facial muscles did not alter. Slowly he shoved his hands into his pockets: Presently the hands reappeared, drawing the linings

inside out. The pockets were empty. "No. Your Honor," he said respectfully enough, yet with that expressive shrug of his shoulders. "They haven't raised my salary recently."

A titter run around the courtroom. any time and in any place, Jerry was likely to furnish entertainment.

the Harrison office. Young Joe Wilcox, right, wasn't he?" "Don't make me commit you for con tempt of court," snapped Judge Wilkins his patience exhausted. He glanced around the room, his gaze coming to rest, at length, on two or three lawyers seated at a table and evidently waiting for pleadings to be over. "Mr. Lathrop," he said. "the prisoner is without counsel. I short term for assault. will assign you to defend him."

Howard Lathrop was a tall, slim, self possessed young man, but at this assignment his law dropped, and he gusted like a fish out of water. "B-but J-Judge, Y-Your Honor, I-I ..."

Judge Wilkins' jaw clamped like a steel trup. This whole farce had gone long enough. His voice held an edge, "Surely Mr. Lathrop, you are not burdend with too many active cases," he stated, ruther as a fact than as a question.

A noticeable ripple of laughter followed this remark. Howard was a very new lawyer, and as everyone knew, no deep path had yet been worn to his newlyfurnished office. Howard, himself, while flushing hotly, grinned in appreciation of the remark. "That might be one reason," he conceded with a smile, "for not entrusting me with this assignment. But sir-if I might speak to Your Honor,

"A chance to gain experience," smiled The assignment stands-if-" Judge Wil kins-hesitated, and his brow wrinkled He turned back to the prisoner-"If the assignment is satisfactory to you."

Jerry Tompkins started almost sharply as Howard Lathrop had done The judge thought he caught a hot, bit ter expression in the eyes and around the corners of the mouth; but it was one so quickly he was not sure

"It's all the same to me. Your Honor "Prisoner remanded for trial," snapped

the judge "Next case

As Jerry turned from the bar in the custody of a court officer. Howard moved reluctantly to intercept him He tries to speak courteously but his voice was dry and lifeless

"I'll try to get in and see you to-mor-

row, Jerry " "Don't put yourself out, Howard dear responded Jerry, mockingly any time that suits your convenience You'll always find me in

Howard Lathrop had to remain for an immediately following case, but he himself little credit in handling it mind appeared miles away. More than once he had to be prompted by a con-

siderate court When finally the case was ever, Howard leaving it white and strained. He looked pulled free from detaining hands, ignordown, ashamed "It should not be," he ed greetings, and departed hurriedly conceded finally "But what would you leaving a trut of surprised people behind do\* Oh, I suppose I'll have to tell the him Howard was naturally friendly and Judge that I am so bitter against Jerry

**social** Once in his cory office, he slammed; "I wouldn't do that, Howard," said the door and locked it. He flung himself. Norma, softly, "Do you know Howard into his comfortable deak chair tilted it far back and glared at a picture of Blackstone on the opposite wall, as if he, were holding that gentleman personally to blame for this unexpected trouble

"Jerry Tompkins, of all people in the we search for it." said Norma. "For one world!" he growled. thing. Howard. I believe Jerry has a The two had known each other from very hig honest streak. He has not tried early boyhood, but they had to cover up his mistakes."

Jerry had been much of a tease, and a interrupted Howard.

## GOOD SHOES

- FOR YOUNG AND OLD "Correctly Fitted" B. D. RACHLIN, Acton comes up?" claimed Howard

"I will," laughed Norms, "I'd like to see this case carried out right, Howard, for your sake as well as his. I've a little legacy put away. I can arrange the money for a cash bail. Will you see to

forced a smile, a rather wry one, it is true. "Oh, all right," he agreed, getting to his feet. "I'll arrange for it somehow. I guess I can'fix it without taking your money. And, young lady, I'm going now, before you get me in deeper yet." He held out his hand, and he flushed again at the warm grasp he received in return.

Having executed a turn-about, Howard

- The "but" loomed large, Still, let's see, his first grudge against Jerry was wholly personal, that machine appliances. He had made good loss of the position he had sought under for a time. In fact, he was in high Mr. Harrison. He would go and see that! favor at the time Howard had come from gentleman.

son for a position as law man of the firm, later, "do you recall my applying to you must; then we'll see if you can keep dreds of thousands of square miles of the to handle the many simple contracts, for the position of law clerk in your things straight for that mother's sake, timbered areas of Canada have been Jerry had been in the office the day firm? I have a very special reason for if not your own. Come on; let's go." Howard had discussed the matter with making just why you turned me down." Mr. Harrison, and he had eyed the other young man oddly as he left. The next sure me that my telling will not be allow- with that mocking grin, and the unp of a field survey party can cover hardly

ed down. No doubt about it; Jerry had asked at last. put some spoke in that wheel, and "Well-" Mr. Harrison smiled -"it may The differences in character were surprise you. I was ready to engage you obvious. The day Jerry was old enough but Jerry Tompkins, who was in the

tained it. Thereafter he had broken Howard stiffened. "Why?" he asked. traffic regulations with abandon. In "Jerry said," went on Mr. Harrison, each case he had merrily acknowledged "that he thought you had the thoroughguilt, and taken his penalties, paying new and sense of fair play and fustice fines if he had the money, and going to to make a fine lawyer in general practice. tail for a few days if funds were lacking. If I engaged you, he held you'd be buried eyes frankly. His own were warm and provincial governments and by commer-Usually some friend had shortly bailed and side-tracked. Better, he thought to friendly. "Jerry, I've gone back over cial organizations. As a result, methods him out. Jerry, lacking home influence, let you get out and struggle and gradually your record; as I said. I know why you have been devised for accurately meahad taken up with a rather wild set. | built up. He convinced me and I turned blocked my position with Mr Harrison 'suring heights of trees either from the

a fellow worker with whom Jerry was. Howard kept silent for a long moment. I know other things. You'll be clear of of the trees themselves. Within the last not on gold terms, had binted at his "Yes," he conceded finally, "though I charges to morrow Jerry But right two years the Dominion Forest Service guilt. They had clashed physically, and, would never have thought of Jerry's tak- here and now I date you to do some- has developed a method for directly es-Joe had come out of the affair somewhat ing that attitude "

his position; and he had also served a hidden. I never really believed he stole that money " Months of drifting had followed, until Howard, his mind in somewhat of a new showed deep in the dark eyes finally he had worked with a new local, turnult, took his leave and went on a "I might give it a try," he said, and development of the wood-using indus-

aeroplane company as a mechanical ex- search for Billy Decker. He finally found gripped Howard's fingers in a grasp that tries, this simple and cheap method of pert. Now he was under arrest for the Decker and again put his question unde the latter wince theft of valuable plans and drawings. squarely to the point "He's all bad," muttered Howard, as "Billy," he said, "I have to defend ink, Jerry old friend" said Howard a development in Canada he summed up this unpleasant record. Jerry Tomkins in the case now against lew minutes later. "I have a call I must

Jerry. He seemed to have unexpected It might help me to know just why " friends who retained faith in him, Joe's Billy Decker took two or three minutes mother for example, always spoke well to think, then he grinned rather shameof him though she feared another clash facedly. "If it won't go any farther, I'll between him and Joe, since her son was 'tell you. Jerry found out I was losing but to the small boy, sweeping up the now also in the aeroplane company, al- money that was needed at home. Mother | dead leaves "Is your mother in" though in another department. Billy had been kind to him after his own Decker, a young fellow who had gotten mother died. He tried to persuade me Saturday morning if she wasn't in with Jerry's gumbling set and then and reason me into getting out. When I had gotten out of it was another friend, still sort of hung fire, he threatened to He always stood up for Jerry. Even Mr. lick me every time I played with that

Harrison did not seem really hostile. ring. I was afraid he would. I stopped. For hours Howard thrushed the case And-and-afterwards I was glad he did play the plano"" the landlord asked the over in his mind, with ever increasing threaten. I stayed out."

close friends, and he often talked out Joe Wilcox was not hard to find but he was exceedingly hard to pin down For a time this evening, however, no his pale blue eyes would not discussion was started. Howard did all Howard's frankly. He sidestepped when cupboard and shut the door behind me

trembling smile, almost on the verge of Howard began to question closely contears, "And one thing more. Have you cerning the episode involving the loss of arranged for ball for Jerry, until the case money. As to the more recent charge concerning the drawings, they had proof "Who would go on his bond?" ex- that Jerry had been alone, one evening where the drawings were kept. He said just a little too much. Howard had a

"Joo," he said, "wouldn't it be bette for all concerned if you went to Mr Harrison and arranged to return money, and then saw to it that Howard started to burst forth again in drawings went back to the acroplane protest, but thought better of it. He company, if you haven't already disposed now makes possible the mapping and

"I-I haven't-" gasned Joe. Taker by surprise he spoke before he thought. Rank terror apread over his face. - He gamped and collapsed

"I-I don't want Mother to suffer." "And he kept quiet, under the money charge to save your mother's feelings?"; from air photographs

I must visit two or three people and type maps from the same prints. Up to late that evening Howard secured the value of this new method can be Mr. Harrison hesitated. "Will you as- Jerry's release. Jerry came to the office, gained by consideration of the fact that

day Howard's application had been turn- ed to affect anyone else adversely?" he bitterness in his eyes "Well," he demanded, "has our rising miles in a field season, whereas the same young lawyer decided it will be impos- area can be photographed from an seroalble to get me out of my last acrape?" "I've been looking into your past Believing that it was possible to obtain record, Jerry," said Howard,

"And found I'm hopeless, of course," (graphs that a mere map of forest type anapped Jerry

"Really?" asked Jorry, irritatingly.

Finally, money had disappeared from you down. After all, Lathrop, he was I know how you've tried to save Joe and shadows visible on the photographs of Joe's mother I know about Billy Decker by direct measurement of the pictures thing I there you from now on to show timating not only forest areas and beaten up. Although Jerry had never; "Some time things about Jerry," said tolk: the best that a in you. How about heights of trees but also the volumes of been convicted of the theft, he had lost, Mr. Harrison, "though he keeps them, it Jerry? I'm asking as a friend"

> Jerry stared back at him. Slowly the contain bifler expression faded and something. Because accurate knowledge of our

"We'll talk things all over in the morn- contribution to the future economic "And here I've got to defend him. Why him. I know you were in with him and make to-night" He hurried out, and survone can stand up for him I don't his friends for a time and then you presently his car was rolling swiftly up see" That was the strange thing about pulled out, yet you still believe in Jerry | the street to Norma's home

#### NOT LIKELY

LEASE SIGNED

"Before we close the contract, do you prospective tenant

"Do you play the violin or any other

"Do you have any singing lessons?"

#### ARRIAL POREST SURVEYS

Canada has taken a long step forward in the utilization of air photographs for the future development of the Dominion's natural resources. As a result of methods worked out by the Dominion Porest Bervice of the Department of Mines and Resources not only estimates of forested areas but volumes of merchantable timter in the forests can now be arrived at the by a study of air photographs. This new technique has been carefully tested and

> catimating of extensive forests in remote regions with a degree of ease and accuracy not dreamed of twenty years ago. During the Great War aerial photography was developed to a comparatively high degree for purposes of military reconnaissance. After the war the new

technique was adapted to civil needs and was found to provide a rapid, accurate. and relatively inexpensive method for the preparation of main. Survey organizations of the Department of Mines and Researces were among the first to realize the immense possibilities of mapping

From the original use of pictures for prepared by this means Some idea of more than two or three hundred source

plane in one or two days more information from aerial phototoundaries, the Dominion Forest Service "I found I'd been more or less of an began a program of research intended to lend to the still further use of the details shown on the photographs. Somewhat Howard looked up, meeting the other's similar work was undertaken by certain

> forest resources is essential to the sound making forest inventories is a definite

> > FRESH CHOCOLATE PUFF

#### RETORT IN KIND

A man from California was visiting an

tree was here yesterday.

Said the Florida man: "Well, I can't say for sure, but I don't think that this OR WAS IT?

ledged his error generously by saying: "You are right, and I am wrong, as you State we grow a tree that size in about a generally are. Good-bye, dear," and he hurried off to-estob-hiw thin.

began to think about it.

### Can.-Born Promoter Arrives on Honeymoon



Recently wed at the British Consulate in Paris, Brigadier-General Alfred C Critchiev, a former native of Calgary, Alta,, and his bride, the former Miss Diana Fishwick, are shown as they arrived in New York for a honeymoon in the United States. The General, foremest British sports promoter, and his bride have been golf partners for many years, having won many amateur competitions. Mrs. Oritchley once held the women's chambionship of Great Britain



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