

Coningsby's Last Minute

By FRANK FILSON

"Hurt you? Not a bit. You won't feel anything."

The ghastly irony of the words rang through Coningsby's brain. True, he would feel nothing, but it was not the physical pain he feared. It was the instantaneous flight of the soul, the terror of nothingness when the electric current sped through his nerves and strained and stiffened muscles taut against the straps. What did he care for physical pain?

And the crime, the trial, the sentence to death, the long wait in the deathhouse had almost vanished from his mind, so long ago they seemed. It was as if a different man had committed that act of murder on an impulse for which this man, named Coningsby, dragged out the last few minutes of his life.

He had been a business man, not imaginative, not abnormal, an ordinary citizen in every way before the event occurred which was to transform him into a criminal. He had loved Polly sincerely, and had thought her devoted to him. Even now he winced as he remembered the shock of the discovery that she loved another. Then a red mist had risen before his eyes, and he had killed—killed the man whose name he searched for now in vain, for the numbing sense of death was already stealing through him.

And he wondered idly whether man really has an immortal part, destined to survive the tribulations of life and look back on them with memory intact. Could there be heaven, if the



"It Didn't Hurt You, Did It?"

complete memory remained? But, on the other hand, was not memory itself the test of survival?

Then there had been the flight after the murder. He could remember hardly anything of that, either, for it was one long nightmare of railroad journeys. How had he eluded the police who were posted, awaiting him, at every barrier? Oh, yes, the disguise! He had forgotten that, as he seemed to have forgotten everything.

Then had followed the dramatic betrayal by his dentist, Poison. Poison had fitted a gold tooth of a peculiar shape in the upper jaw. It was Poison who discovered him, by one of those coincidences that seem always to lie in wait for the criminal. Poison had betrayed him to the police. It had seemed the acme of irony that he should have to lose his life because of the chance recognition of a man whom he saw only twice a year—and a dentist!

He remembered the trial, with all its abominable publicity. He had hoped to escape with nominal sentence, but he refused his lawyer's suggestion that he should plead the unwritten law. His wife had been present in court. He remembered her cry when the judge finished summing up.

Then the stony faces of the jurymen, who stared at him as they filed out of their box. And the terrible waiting.

"If they're out an hour longer it will mean a disagreement, or, at best, a second-degree verdict," his counsel whispered hopefully.

That was the first time that Coningsby realized the imminence of death. A second-degree verdict! Why, what had people been counting on?

Suddenly he became aware that the faces of the spectators had death in them. There was death in the silence of the court, in the faces of the police, in the averted looks of the jurors as they came ominously back.

"Guilty of murder in the first degree!" Those words rang through his brain. They seemed engraved there indelibly.

CHARTER OF FINE'S JEWELRY SHOP, INCORPORATED.

United States of America, State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Be it known, that on this 20th day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the undersigned, to-wit: Fred C. Mark, before me, Frederick Charles Marx, a notary public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, did appear, and being duly sworn, he hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared: The several persons named in the foregoing articles, who severally above the full age of majority, who severally declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of Act No. 267 of 1914, as well as of the general laws of Louisiana, relative to the organization of corporations, they hereby form themselves into a corporation, and under the stipulations hereinafter set forth.

Article I.—The name and title of this corporation shall be "FINE'S JEWELRY SHOP, INCORPORATED."

Its domicile shall be in the city of New Orleans and it shall have and enjoy success in all corporate matters by its corporate name for a term of ninety-nine (99) years from and after the date hereof.

This corporation shall have power and authority to contract, sue and be sued in its corporate name, to hold, receive, hire and purchase real and personal property, and to sell, mortgage, lease, convey, and otherwise dispose of the same, and to execute all contracts and obligations, and to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Article II.—The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established and for the nature of the business to be carried on by it are hereby declared to be: To carry on business as jewelers, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of jewelry, watches, diamonds, pearls, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, and other precious stones, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of gold, silver, platinum, and other metals, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of scientific instruments and apparatus, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of all such things as may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article III.—The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), divided into one hundred (100) shares of fifty dollars (\$50.00) each. This capital stock may be increased to the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

Said stock shall be paid for in installments of such amounts and at such times as the board of directors may determine, but any part or parts of said stock may be issued by said board of directors at not less than par in payment of labor due or property actually received by said corporation.

Article IV.—All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a board of three (3) directors, to be composed of stockholders, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The board of directors shall be vested with full power and authority to make all contracts, purchase and sell, and to do all things which may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article V.—The first board of directors of this corporation shall consist of Fred C. Mark, Joseph H. Heron, and Charles E. Fine, all of whom shall hold office until the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and their successors are duly elected and qualified.

On the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and at any and all subsequent meetings of the board of directors, the directors shall be held at the office of the company, under the supervision of two (2) commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors, and the directors shall elect their successors at each meeting.

Article VI.—Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation of its charter or by any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three (3) commissioners to be appointed by the stockholders at a meeting of the stockholders convened for that purpose thirty (30) days prior to the date of dissolution.

Article VII.—No stockholder shall sell or dispose of his stock in this corporation until he shall have first offered the same to the other stockholders. Said offer of sale shall be made in writing to the president of this corporation, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the offer of sale.

Article VIII.—No stockholder shall be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of this corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance of the stock owned by him, nor shall any member of the corporation be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of any other member of the corporation.

Article IX.—The undersigned recorder of mortgages, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above recited charter of incorporation of "FINE'S JEWELRY SHOP, INCORPORATED," was duly recorded in my office, in book 1201, folio 102.

(Signed) EMILE J. LEONARD, Dy. R. Notary Public.

Witnesses: FRED C. MARK, Notary Public.

CHARTER OF "KENNEDY-SEMEL CLEANING COMPANY, INCORPORATED."

United States of America, State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Be it known, that on this 20th day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the undersigned, to-wit: Wm. C. Dufour, before me, Frederick Charles Marx, a notary public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, did appear, and being duly sworn, he hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared: The several persons named in the foregoing articles, who severally above the full age of majority, who severally declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of Act No. 267 of 1914, as well as of the general laws of Louisiana, relative to the organization of corporations, they hereby form themselves into a corporation, and under the stipulations hereinafter set forth.

Article I.—The name and title of this corporation shall be "KENNEDY-SEMEL CLEANING COMPANY, INCORPORATED."

Its domicile shall be in the city of New Orleans and it shall have and enjoy success in all corporate matters by its corporate name for a term of ninety-nine (99) years from and after the date hereof.

This corporation shall have power and authority to contract, sue and be sued in its corporate name, to hold, receive, hire and purchase real and personal property, and to sell, mortgage, lease, convey, and otherwise dispose of the same, and to execute all contracts and obligations, and to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Article II.—The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established and for the nature of the business to be carried on by it are hereby declared to be: To carry on business as cleaners, and to clean, dye, press, repair, renovate, alter and store clothing, garments, draperies, rugs, carpets, and other articles, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of all such things as may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article III.—The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00), divided into sixty (60) shares of one hundred (100) dollars each. All stock subscribed for shall be payable in cash at the time the same is issued.

Article IV.—All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a board of three (3) directors, to be composed of stockholders, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The board of directors shall be vested with full power and authority to make all contracts, purchase and sell, and to do all things which may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article V.—The first board of directors of this corporation shall consist of Wm. C. Dufour, John E. Kennedy, and Philip S. Semel, all of whom shall hold office until the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and their successors are duly elected and qualified.

On the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and at any and all subsequent meetings of the board of directors, the directors shall be held at the office of the company, under the supervision of two (2) commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors, and the directors shall elect their successors at each meeting.

Article VI.—Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation of its charter or by any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three (3) commissioners to be appointed by the stockholders at a meeting of the stockholders convened for that purpose thirty (30) days prior to the date of dissolution.

Article VII.—No stockholder shall sell or dispose of his stock in this corporation until he shall have first offered the same to the other stockholders. Said offer of sale shall be made in writing to the president of this corporation, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the offer of sale.

Article VIII.—No stockholder shall be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of this corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance of the stock owned by him, nor shall any member of the corporation be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of any other member of the corporation.

Article IX.—The undersigned recorder of mortgages, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above recited charter of incorporation of "KENNEDY-SEMEL CLEANING COMPANY, INCORPORATED," was duly recorded in my office, in book 1201, folio 103.

(Signed) EMILE J. LEONARD, Dy. R. Notary Public.

Witnesses: Wm. C. DUFOUR, Notary Public.

CHARTER OF THE LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI LAND DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.

United States of America, State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Be it known, that on this tenth day of the month of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the undersigned, to-wit: Pierre D. Olivier, before me, Frederick Charles Marx, a notary public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, did appear, and being duly sworn, he hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared: The several persons named in the foregoing articles, who severally above the full age of majority, who severally declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of Act No. 267 of 1914, as well as of the general laws of Louisiana, relative to the organization of corporations, they hereby form themselves into a corporation, and under the stipulations hereinafter set forth.

Article I.—The name and title of this corporation shall be "LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI LAND DEVELOPMENT CO., INC."

Its domicile shall be in the city of New Orleans and it shall have and enjoy success in all corporate matters by its corporate name for a term of ninety-nine (99) years from and after the date hereof.

This corporation shall have power and authority to contract, sue and be sued in its corporate name, to hold, receive, hire and purchase real and personal property, and to sell, mortgage, lease, convey, and otherwise dispose of the same, and to execute all contracts and obligations, and to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Article II.—The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established and for the nature of the business to be carried on by it are hereby declared to be: To carry on business as land developers, and to acquire, improve, lease, sell, and otherwise dispose of land, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of all such things as may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article III.—The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000.00), divided into six thousand (6,000) shares of one hundred (100) dollars each. All stock subscribed for shall be payable in cash at the time the same is issued.

Article IV.—All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a board of three (3) directors, to be composed of stockholders, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The board of directors shall be vested with full power and authority to make all contracts, purchase and sell, and to do all things which may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article V.—The first board of directors of this corporation shall consist of Pierre D. Olivier, John E. Kennedy, and Philip S. Semel, all of whom shall hold office until the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and their successors are duly elected and qualified.

On the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and at any and all subsequent meetings of the board of directors, the directors shall be held at the office of the company, under the supervision of two (2) commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors, and the directors shall elect their successors at each meeting.

Article VI.—Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation of its charter or by any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three (3) commissioners to be appointed by the stockholders at a meeting of the stockholders convened for that purpose thirty (30) days prior to the date of dissolution.

Article VII.—No stockholder shall sell or dispose of his stock in this corporation until he shall have first offered the same to the other stockholders. Said offer of sale shall be made in writing to the president of this corporation, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the offer of sale.

Article VIII.—No stockholder shall be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of this corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance of the stock owned by him, nor shall any member of the corporation be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of any other member of the corporation.

Article IX.—The undersigned recorder of mortgages, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above recited charter of incorporation of "LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI LAND DEVELOPMENT CO., INC.," was duly recorded in my office, in book 1201, folio 104.

(Signed) EMILE J. LEONARD, Dy. R. Notary Public.

Witnesses: PIERRE D. OLIVIER, Notary Public.

CHARTER OF "FON LOY AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED."

United States of America, State of Louisiana, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Be it known, that on this 9th day of the month of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and sixteen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the undersigned, to-wit: John R. Upton, before me, Frederick Charles Marx, a notary public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, did appear, and being duly sworn, he hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared: The several persons named in the foregoing articles, who severally above the full age of majority, who severally declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of Act No. 267 of 1914, as well as of the general laws of Louisiana, relative to the organization of corporations, they hereby form themselves into a corporation, and under the stipulations hereinafter set forth.

Article I.—The name and title of this corporation shall be "FON LOY AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED."

Its domicile shall be in the city of New Orleans and it shall have and enjoy success in all corporate matters by its corporate name for a term of ninety-nine (99) years from and after the date hereof.

This corporation shall have power and authority to contract, sue and be sued in its corporate name, to hold, receive, hire and purchase real and personal property, and to sell, mortgage, lease, convey, and otherwise dispose of the same, and to execute all contracts and obligations, and to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Article II.—The objects and purposes for which this corporation is established and for the nature of the business to be carried on by it are hereby declared to be: To carry on business as a general contractor, and to construct, improve, lease, sell, and otherwise dispose of buildings, and to sell, buy, lease, and otherwise dispose of all such things as may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article III.—The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), divided into one thousand (1,000) shares of one hundred (100) dollars each. All stock subscribed for shall be payable in cash at the time the same is issued.

Article IV.—All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by a board of three (3) directors, to be composed of stockholders, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The board of directors shall be vested with full power and authority to make all contracts, purchase and sell, and to do all things which may be necessary or convenient for the carrying on of the business of the corporation.

Article V.—The first board of directors of this corporation shall consist of John R. Upton, John E. Kennedy, and Philip S. Semel, all of whom shall hold office until the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and their successors are duly elected and qualified.

On the second Wednesday of January, 1917, and at any and all subsequent meetings of the board of directors, the directors shall be held at the office of the company, under the supervision of two (2) commissioners to be appointed by the board of directors, and the directors shall elect their successors at each meeting.

Article VI.—Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation of its charter or by any other cause, its affairs shall be liquidated by three (3) commissioners to be appointed by the stockholders at a meeting of the stockholders convened for that purpose thirty (30) days prior to the date of dissolution.

Article VII.—No stockholder shall sell or dispose of his stock in this corporation until he shall have first offered the same to the other stockholders. Said offer of sale shall be made in writing to the president of this corporation, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the offer of sale.

Article VIII.—No stockholder shall be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of this corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance of the stock owned by him, nor shall any member of the corporation be liable or responsible for the contracts or debts of any other member of the corporation.

Article IX.—The undersigned recorder of mortgages, in and for the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above recited charter of incorporation of "FON LOY AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED," was duly recorded in my office, in book 1201, folio 105.

(Signed) EMILE J. LEONARD, Dy. R. Notary Public.

Witnesses: JOHN R. UPTON, Notary Public.

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from a long-bow; its force depends on the length of the hand that draws it. But argument is like an arrow from a cross-bow, which has no force if drawn by a child or a man.

Boyle.

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